

EDITORIAL

Ethics in Health Science Journals

In order to achieve the standard of excellence; a health science devoted journal should select manuscript through peer review. Peer reviewed journal is defined as a journal which regularly obtains advice on individual manuscripts from reviewers who are not part of the journal's editorial board. It constitutes a form of self-regulation by qualified professionals within the relevant field.

Peer review improves the accuracy, clarity and completeness of published manuscripts and also helps editors to decide which manuscripts to publish. However, it does not guarantee manuscript's quality and is not reliable detector of scientific misconduct. The peer reviewers are usually experts in the manuscript's content area and research method or both. They are selected based on their expertise and ability to provide high quality, constructive, and fair reviews.

In addition, a good journal seeks the opinion of a statistical reviewer. The statistical reviewer also advises editors ways to improve a manuscript and on its priority for publication in that journal. The editors then decide whether and under which conditions manuscripts are accepted for publication, assisted by reviewers' advice.

A good research should be well justified, well planned, appropriately designed and properly address the research question. Journals should publish guidance about what constitutes authorship. Authorship implies a significant intellectual contribution to the work, some role in writing the manuscript and reviewing the final draft of the manuscript though its role may vary. Decisions about a manuscript should be based only on its importance, originality, clarity, and relevance to the journal's scope and content. Studies with negative results despite adequate power, or those challenging previously published work, should receive equal consideration. Journals should state their policies on what type of content they accept for publication. Journals should generally seek original work that has not been previously published.

Plagiarism is the wrongful appropriation or use of others' published and unpublished ideas or words (or other intellectual property) without attribution or permission, and presenting them as new and original rather than derived from an existing source. It should be strictly discouraged. Editorial decisions should not be influenced by advertising revenue or reprint potential. Editorial and advertising functions at the journal should be independent. Advertisers and donors should have no control over editorial material under any circumstances. Journals should have a clear policy on handling concerns or allegations about misconduct, which can arise regarding authors, reviewers, editors, and others. Last but not the least, it is important to agree upon the standards of expected ethical behavior for all parties involved in the act of publishing: the author, the journal editor, the peer reviewers, the publisher.



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