**Best Practice Guidelines on Publication Ethics: A Publisher’s Perspective**

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**1. ABSTRACT**

Blackwell Publishing, the world’s leading partner for societies, announced the launch of Best Practice Guidelines on Publication Ethics: A Publisher’s Perspective, becoming the first publisher to offer a comprehensive resource to its journal editors and society partners. The guidelines were created to provide practical advice on the major ethical principles of academic publishing. A broad range of topics are addressed including transparency, disclosure, research integrity, peer review, conflicts of interest and plagiarism. The guidelines also include an extensive Best Practices section as well as detailed frameworks about how to handle ethical situations. This poster presents the Blackwell publication ethics guidelines in abbreviated form, and places particular emphasis on the issues that are of practical relevance to ISMPP members.

**2. INTRODUCTION**

Academic publishing occurs in an environment of powerful intellectual, financial, and sometimes political interests that may collide or compete. Great discussion and editorial leadership will result in publications that will benefit academic societies, journal editors, research funders, readers, and publishers.

**3. RESULTS**

**3.1. Organization**

The general principles of publication ethics are grouped and discussed under broad themes. Statements of principles are followed by factors that may affect them. The order of the sections does not imply a hierarchy of importance.

**3.2. Selected Topics: Conflicts of Interest**

Editors, authors, and peer reviewers have a responsibility to disclosure interests that might appear to affect their ability to present or review a manuscript objectively. These include relevant financial (for example patent ownership, stock ownership, consultancy, speaker’s fees), personal, political, intellectual, or religious interests. The existence of a conflict of interest (for example, employment with a research funder) should not prevent scientists from being listed as an author if their quality for authorship is not negated.

Editors may prefer not to commission subjective articles (for example, editorials or non-systematic reviews) from authors with conflicts of interest. However, arguments can be made that such authors are often well informed and have interesting discussions. Editors should describe the detail that they require from conflict of interest statements, including the period that these statements should cover (3 years is suggested, but relevant conflicts of interest that are older should not be neglected).

Editors should explain that these statements should provide information about financial (for example patent ownership, stock ownership, consultancy, speaker’s fees), personal, political, intellectual, or religious interests.

Editors should require statements about conflicts of interest from authors.

Best Practice: Authorship: and acknowledgement - in abbreviated form

**4. DISCUSSION**

Best Practice: Authorship: and acknowledgement - in abbreviated form

**Best Practice: Attributional authorship to a group - in abbreviated form**

The International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) provides guidance for instances where a number of authors report on the same work as a single group of investigators.

Blackwell Publishing recommends that editors adopt the ICMJE policy. ICMJE guidance states: "When a large, multi-center group has conducted the work, the group should identify the individuals who accept direct responsibility for the manuscript and be listed as authors. Each contributing author should be able to promise that the information (including sources of funding) presented is true and accurate. In the event that there are multiple corresponding authors, the first author should be the one corresponding author. The corresponding author should clearly indicate the responsibility for the manuscript. Each author’s contribution should be described in the manuscript. Authors of research papers should state their contributions to the completion of the manuscript. They should have access to the data collected to support the publication. Contributions which do not qualify as authors should also be listed and their particular contribution described. This information should appear as an acknowledgement."

**5. SUMMARY**

Blackwell Publishing is the first publisher to offer a comprehensive resource about publication ethics to its journal editors and society partners.

The guidelines were created to provide practical advice to editors on the major ethical principles of academic publishing and to help inform the editorial policies of their journals.

Topics include transparency, disclosure, research integrity, peer review, conflicts of interest and plagiarism.

The Best Practice Guidelines on Publication Ethics: A Publisher’s Perspective yield an overall positive feedback by the publishing community.

**6. REFERENCES**


**7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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**8. CONTACT**

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