

## Ethics and Disclosure

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#### 1. Ethics for Authors

##### 1.1 Authorship

Authorship must be limited to those who have made a significant contribution to the research, the conception, design, execution or interpretation of the reported study. Author contributions may be described at the end of the submission, optionally using roles defined by [CRediT](#). For those who contributed to the research or manuscript preparation, but is not an author, should be acknowledged with their permission.

The corresponding author should consider carefully the list and order of authors before submitting and ensure that all co-authors have seen and approved the final version of the article and have agreed to its submission for publication.

Any addition, deletion or rearrangement of author names in the authorship list should be made only before the manuscript has been accepted and only if approved by the journal editor. To request such a change, the editor must receive the following from the corresponding author: (a) the reason for the change in author list and (b) written confirmation (e-mail, letter) from all authors that they freely consent to the addition, removal or rearrangement. In the case of addition or removal of authors, this includes confirmation from the author being added or removed that they have freely provided such consent.

Only in exceptional, perhaps extenuating circumstances will the editor consider the addition, deletion or rearrangement of authors after the manuscript has been accepted. When such is the case, publication of the manuscript under such review shall be suspended while the editor considers the request. In rare cases and if the manuscript has already been published in an online issue, any requests approved by the editor may result in a corrigendum.

### 1.2 Plagiarism

Authors must not use the words, figures, or ideas of others without attribution. All sources must be cited at the point they are used, and reuse of wording must be limited and attributed or quoted in the text.

Luminescence uses the Crossref Similarity Check powered by iThenticate to screen submitted manuscripts for unoriginal material. Authors should not engage in plagiarism, verbatim or near, verbatim copying, or very close paraphrasing, or text or results from other's work. Self-plagiarism, known as duplicate or redundant publication, unacceptably close replication of author's own previously published text or results without an acknowledgement of the source is also not allowed.

### 1.3 Conflict of Interest

Conflict of interest (COI) may happen when there is a divergence between an individual's private interests (competing interests) and his or her responsibilities to scientific and publishing activities such that a reasonable observer might wonder if the individual's behavior or judgment was motivated by considerations of his or her competing interests.

Conflicts include the following:

- Financial: funding and other payments, goods and services received or expected by the authors relating to the subject of the work or from an organization with an interest in the outcome of the work;
- Affiliations: being employed by, on the advisory board for, or a member of an organization with an interest in the outcome of the work;
- Intellectual property: patents or trademarks owned by someone or their organization;
- Personal: friends, family, relationships, and other close personal connections;

- Ideology: beliefs or activism, for example, political or religious, relevant to the work;
- Academic: competitors or someone whose work is critiqued.

COI in medical publishing affects everyone with a stake in research integrity including journals, research/academic institutions, funding agencies, the popular media, and the public. Authors are required to declare a potential interest to editorial office, undeclared interests may incur sanctions. For more information on COI, authors can refer to guidance from the [ICMJE](#) and [WAME](#).

#### 1.4 Citation Policy

Research articles and non-research articles (e.g. Opinion, Review, and Commentary articles) must cite appropriate and relevant literature in support of the claims made. Authors should ensure that where material is taken from other sources (including their own published materials), the source is clearly cited and that where appropriate, permission is obtained.

- Authors should not engage in excessive self-citation of their own work;
- Authors should avoid citing derivations of original work (For example, they should cite the original work rather than a review article that cites an original work);
- Authors should not copy references from other publications if they have not read the cited work;
- Authors should not preferentially cite their own or their friends', peers', or institution's publications;
- Authors should not use an excessive number of citations to support one point;
- Authors should not cite advertisements or advertorial material.

#### 1.5 Ethics Approval

Luminescence journals endorse the “ Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals” issued by the International Committee for Medical Journals Editors. Authors should conduct research from research proposal to publication in line with best practices and codes of conduct of relevant professional bodies and/or national and international regulatory bodies.

#### **Statement of Informed Consent**

Patients have a right to privacy that should not be infringed without informed consent. Identifying information, including patients' names, initials, or hospital numbers, should not be published in written descriptions, photographs, and pedigrees unless the information is essential for scientific purposes and the patient (or parent or guardian) gives written informed consent for publication. Informed consent for this purpose requires that a patient who is identifiable be shown the manuscript to be published. Authors should identify individuals who provide writing assistance and disclose the funding source for this assistance. Identifying details should be omitted if they are not essential. Complete anonymity is difficult to

achieve, however, and informed consent should be obtained if there is any doubt. For example, masking the eye region in photographs of patients is inadequate protection of anonymity. If identifying characteristics are altered to protect anonymity, such as in genetic pedigrees, authors should provide assurance that alterations do not distort scientific meaning and editors should so note.

### **Protection of human subjects and animals in research**

When reporting experiments on human subjects, authors should indicate whether the procedures followed were in accordance with the ethical standards of the appropriate institutional and/or national research ethics committee (including the name of the ethics committee) and certify that the study was performed in line with the ethical standards as laid down in the [1964 Declaration of Helsinki](#) and its later amendments or comparable ethical standards. If doubt exists whether the research was conducted in accordance with the 1964 Helsinki Declaration or comparable standards, the authors must explain the reasons for their approach, and demonstrate that an independent ethics committee or institutional review board explicitly approved the doubtful aspects of the study. If a study was granted exemption from requiring ethics approval, this should also be detailed in the manuscript (including the reasons for the exemption). When reporting experiments on animals, authors should indicate whether the institutional and national guide for the care and use of laboratory animals was followed.

### **Clinical Trials Registration**

Luminescence follows the recommendations from the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) and the Enhancing the Quality and Transparency of Health Research ([EQUATOR](#)) Network for registration and reporting clinical studies.

All interventional trials must be registered before enrollment of the first participant. Trial registration records must be available in a primary register of the WHO International Clinical Trials Registry Platform (ICTRP), in [ClinicalTrials.gov](#), or in any publicly accessible database meets the minimum 24-item trial registration dataset.

The trial number must be clearly indicated in the abstract and methods section of the manuscript. Trials with retrospective registration or with registration in a database that is not publicly accessible cannot be considered.

## **2. Ethics for Reviewers**

### **2.1 Confidentiality**

Materials under review should not be shared or discussed with anyone outside the review process unless necessary and approved by the editor.

### **2.2 Constructive critique**

Reviewer comments should acknowledge the positive aspects of the material under

review, identify negative aspects constructively, and indicate the improvements needed.

### 2.3 Competence

Reviewers who realize that their expertise on the research of the manuscript is limited have a responsibility to make their degree of competence clear to the editor. Reviewers need not be expert in every aspect of a manuscript's content, but they should accept an assignment only if they have adequate expertise to provide an authoritative assessment.

### 2.4 Impartiality and integrity

Reviewer comments and conclusions should be based on an objective and impartial consideration of the facts, exclusive of personal professional bias. All comments by reviewers should be based solely on the paper's scientific merit, originality, and quality of writing as well as on the relevance to the journal's scope and mission, without regard to race, gender, religion, or citizenship of the authors.

### 2.5 Disclosure of conflict of interest

To the extent possible, the review system should be designed to minimize actual or perceived bias on the reviewer's part. If reviewers have any interest that might interfere with an objective review, they should either decline to undertake this review or disclose their conflict of interest to the editor and ask how best to address it.

### 2.6 Timeliness and responsiveness

Reviewers are responsible for acting promptly, adhering to the instructions for completing a review, and submitting it in a timely manner. If it is not possible to meet the deadline for the review, then the reviewer should decline to perform the review or should inquire whether some accommodation can be made with respect to the deadline.

## 3. Ethics for Editors

The Code of Ethics for editors describes the journal's policy to ensure that reviewers, authors and editors are treated ethically. It is expected that all editors commit to these ethical professional conducts.

Luminescence follows the guidelines stipulated in [COPE Code of Conduct for Journal Editors](#). We realize that editors may not be able to implement all the Best Practice recommendations, but we hope that our suggestions will identify aspects of journal policy and practice that should be reviewed and acknowledged.

### 3.1 Integrity and Individuality

- For editors, it is important to respect the integrity and individuality of the

comments and opinions from authors and peer-reviewers.

- Editors should exercise their privileged position in a confidential, fair, timely, constructive and sensitive manner, not to earn private interests at the expense of the editorial work.
- Treat all authors, reviewers and other editors fairly, regardless of factors such as race, religion, gender, special needs, age or nationality.
- Do not abuse copyright, patented materials, trade secrets or any other intangible assets.

### 3.2 Conflict of Interest

- Editors should avoid any practices that cause conflicts of interest or reasonable behavior.
- Editors should not consider papers that have real or potential conflicts of interest caused by competition, cooperation, financial or other relationships or connections with competitors, collaborators, financiers, or any author, company, or institution that is associated with the author.

### 3.3 Academic Record Integrity

Editors have a duty to act if they suspect misconduct or if an allegation of misconduct is brought to them. This duty extends to both published and unpublished papers. Errors, inaccurate or misleading statements must be corrected promptly and with due prominence.

### 3.4 Confidentiality

Editors shall not disclose the confidential information of the manuscript under review to anyone outside the review process unless necessary and approved by the author(s). Confidential information includes but is not limited to all forms of scientific, academic and proprietary documents including manuscripts, tables, figures, all forms of data including research and business data, diagrams, designs, techniques, processes of all kinds, plans, grant and other applications, personal communications, patent materials, ideas and concepts.

## 4. Ethics for Production

### 4.1 Author Contributions

For reducing authorship disputes and recognizing individual author contribution, all submitted manuscripts are required to include author's contribution statement to illustrate an accurate and detailed description of each author's contributions to the published work. For research articles with multiple authors, a short paragraph should be provided to explain their personal contributions. It should be provided as "Authors contribution" in back matter part of the manuscript. This is indispensable for papers published in Luminescence journals.

Luminescence suggests authors refer to [CRediT](#) taxonomy for an explanation of terms. We require that the Authorship must be limited to those who have

contributed substantially to the work reported.

We think that the common first author can be indicated by including "X and Y contribute equally to this paper" in the manuscript. The role of equal authors should also be fully declared in the submission statement.

For commentary articles, if individual statements are not applicable, a statement should be included to clarify who is responsible for the idea, who conducts the literature search and/or data analysis, and who drafts and revises the work. The editorial office will check the statement.

For articles that are mainly based on a student's dissertation or thesis, Luminescence recommends that the student should be listed as the main author.

#### 4.2 Plagiarism and Duplication

Luminescence use the industry standard software iThenticate to check for manuscript similarity to screen out manuscripts involving plagiarism and duplication. Those manuscripts where plagiarism or duplication is shown to have occurred will not be considered for publication in our journals. "Original wording taken directly from publication by other researchers should appear in quotation marks with the appropriate citations."

Verbatim or near, verbatim copying in massive, or very close paraphrasing in paragraph, essential part such as results and discussion, conclusion copied from other's work without citing the original source will be regarded as plagiarism and the manuscript will be rejected. Self-plagiarism or Recycling fraud is means that reusing important, identical or nearly identical parts of the author's own work without declaration or citing the original document. This kind article usually is regarded as duplicate or multiple publications. The behavior is also not allowed.

#### 4.3 Research Misconduct

If author(s) are found guilty of breaching [research misconduct](#), the journal reserves the right to reject/retract or withdraw the paper and declines further submissions from the offending authors for a period of up to five years by informing all the interested parties, including journal editors and authors, the author's department head and/or institutional office of this misconduct.

#### 4.4 Article Retraction & Withdrawal

Articles that have been published shall remain unaltered as far as possible. However, occasionally, if any unavoidable circumstances arise after the publication, the article will be retracted or even removed from a particular journal. Such actions must not be undertaken lightly and can only occur under exceptional circumstances, such as: severe breach of research and publication ethics like violation of copyrights and repetition or republication of the manuscript by manipulating the facts and figures.

**Article withdrawal:** This is applicable for manuscripts in the stage of “Article in Press” which represents the early versions of the accepted articles. If any article at this stage infringes the professional ethical codes, such as multiple submissions, bogus claims of authorship, plagiarism, fraudulent use of data, and the article may be withdrawn depending on the Editor’s discretion. In this regard, editors assess and analyze the entire situations, on a case by case basis.

**Article retraction:** Infringements of professional ethical codes, such as multiple submissions, sham claims of authorship, plagiarism, fraudulent use of data and similar claims will lead to the retraction of an article. Occasionally, a retraction may be considered to correct errors in submission or publication.

**Article removal and replacement:** Subjected to legal limitations of the publisher may withdraw any article faces issues related to copyright holder or author(s). Identification of false or inaccurate data representation, as it may pose a serious risk and involves academic data tampering or other fraudulent and unfair practice; hence it should be handled firmly.

The core objective of these measures is necessary to maintain the integrity of the academic record.