**Publication ethics and publication malpractice statement**

**Duties of Editors**

***Fair play and editorial independence***

Editors evaluate submitted manuscripts exclusively on the basis of their academic merit and its relevance to the journal’s scope.

***Confidentiality***

Editors and editorial board members will not disclose any information about a submitted manuscript to anyone other than the corresponding author, reviewers, potential reviewers, other editorial advisers, and the publisher.

***Disclosure and conflicts of interest***

Editors and editorial board members will not use unpublished information disclosed in a submitted manuscript for their own research purposes without the authors’ explicit written consent.

***Publication decisions***

The editors ensure that all submitted manuscripts being considered for publication undergo peer-review by reviewers who are expert in the field.

***Involvement and cooperation in investigations***

Editors will take responsive measures when ethical concerns are raised with regard to a submitted manuscript or published paper.

**Duties of Reviewers**

***Contribution to editorial decisions***

Peer review assists editors in making editorial decisions and, through editorial communications with authors, may assist authors in improving their manuscripts.

***Confidentiality***

Any manuscripts received for review are confidential documents and must be treated as such.

***Standards of objectivity***

Reviews should be conducted objectively and observations formulated clearly with supporting arguments.

***Acknowledgment of sources***

Reviewers should identify relevant published work that has not been cited by the authors.

***Disclosure and conflicts of interest***

Any invited referee who has conflicts of interest should immediately notify the editors to declare their conflicts of interest and decline the invitation to review.

**Duties of Authors**

***Reporting standards***

Authors of original research should present an accurate account of the work performed and the results, followed by an objective discussion of the significance of the work.

***Originality and plagiarism***

Authors should ensure that they have written and submit only entirely original works, and if they have used the work and/or words of others, that this has been appropriately cited.

***Multiple, duplicate, redundant or concurrent submission/publication***

Papers describing essentially the same research should not be published in more than one journal or primary publication.

***Disclosure and conflicts of interest***

Authors should disclose any conflicts of interest that might be construed to influence the results or their interpretation in the manuscript.

***Acknowledgment of sources***

Authors should ensure that they have properly acknowledged the work of others, and should also cite publications that have been influential in determining the nature of the reported work.

***Fundamental errors in published works***

When authors discover significant errors or inaccuracies in their own published work, it is their obligation to promptly notify the journal’s editors and cooperate with them to either correct the paper in the form of an erratum or to retract the paper.