

Editorial

EDITORIAL POLICY ON SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT

Evidence has emerged suggesting unethical behavior or scientific misconduct by a few authors submitting articles to *Pharmaceutical Research*. The Editor-in-Chief therefore outlines here editorial policies and intended response to such instances. Unethical behavior or scientific misconduct may include, but is not restricted to: plagiarism, data fabrication or falsification, failure to disclose conflicts of interest, misrepresentation of authorship or failure to give due credit to authors, and duplicate or simultaneous publication of research results. Where unethical behavior or scientific misconduct is suspected by the Editor-in-Chief, the matter will be dealt with as follows:

1. The Editor-in-Chief will seek out and evaluate all evidence pertaining to the matter that is available from the referees and members of the *Pharmaceutical Research* editorial advisory board.

2. The Editor-in-Chief will inform the author(s) of his/her findings and invite a response.

3. If the author(s)' response is deemed unsatisfactory by the Editor-in-Chief, he/she may impose sanctions against the author(s). Sanctions may include: rejection of the paper and barment from submission of papers to *Pharmaceutical Research* for a specified period of time.

4. Before sanctions are imposed, the Editor-in-Chief will inform the author(s) of the intended sanction(s) to provide an opportunity for submission of any additional facts and/or mitigating circumstances.

5. If the Editor-in-Chief considers an infraction sufficiently serious, he/she may, following consultation with legal counsel and with the consent of the Publications Committee, refer the matter for further investigation by other authorities, such as employers, granting agencies, or regulatory agencies. Such action will take place only after all internal editorial steps have been completed.

Submission of a paper to *Pharmaceutical Research* implies that all listed authors acknowledge and accept the following principles:

1. Results presented as new data have not been published and are not being considered for publication elsewhere.

2. Each listed author has contributed to and reviewed the submitted manuscript and takes responsibility for its scientific validity overall. An author's contribution may take various forms, including the conduct of the research work, data interpretation and presentation, and direction of part or all of the research project.

3. It is *Pharmaceutical Research* policy that funding sources be divulged to disclose potential conflicts of interest. The Editor-in-Chief should be notified of any potential conflict of interest, for example, if an author has received extramural funding from a company and the author has a financial interest in the company sponsoring the research.

Referees for *Pharmaceutical Research* are subject to the following ethical guidelines:

1. Each submitted manuscript is confidential and shall not be distributed or serve as the basis for the referee's own research.

2. If research reported in a submitted manuscript overlaps and/or competes with a referee's own work, the referee shall return the manuscript immediately to the Editor-in-Chief, along with a cover letter indicating inability to review the manuscript because of a potential conflict of interest.

3. If a referee has a substantial financial or professional interest in an institution or company where the research was performed, or holds any bias, personal or professional, the manuscript shall be returned immediately by the referee with a cover letter explaining the potential conflict of interest and/or bias.

Wolfgang Sadée
Editor-in-Chief
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