

## EDITORIAL AND ETHICAL RESPONSIBILITIES

### *Gulf and Caribbean Research*

We follow the guidance for editors as outlined by the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) ([https://publicationethics.org/files/Code%20of%20Conduct\\_2.pdf](https://publicationethics.org/files/Code%20of%20Conduct_2.pdf)). Specific policies are outlined below.

#### **EDITORIAL AUTONOMY**

Associate Editors (AE) and the Editors-in-Chief are responsible for the content of articles published. In cases where AEs are concerned about the publication of specific content, they should consult with, and accept guidance from, the Editors-in-Chief. The Publisher may call to the attention of AEs and the Editors-in-Chief specific content that causes concern. However, the final decision and responsibility to publish any content rests with the AEs and the Editors-in-Chief.

In the case of an AE or Editor-in-Chief submitting a manuscript to *Gulf and Caribbean Research* (GCR), the AE or Editor-in-Chief will be completely excluded from the decision-making process. Additionally, the reviewers will remain anonymous to the AE or Editor-in-Chief author and they will have no access to the records of their own manuscript in question beyond the reviewer's comments.

#### **APPROPRIATE CONTENT**

The AEs and Editors-in-Chief should avoid accepting for publication content data that is not relevant to scientific inquiry or the scientific community, or content that would bring GCR into disrepute.

Reviewers, AEs, and the Editors-in-Chief should use all means at their disposal to ensure that manuscripts involving scientific misconduct are discovered before publication. If such misconduct is discovered after publication, Editors-in-Chief should investigate allegations of misconduct and take appropriate action, including but not limited to publishing retractions, informing the authors, and informing the authors' institution.

Any paper submitted for publication that raises concern because of the potential misuse of methods, technologies or agents reported for nefarious purposes may be subject to editorial review to determine the risks and benefits to the scientific community and the public at large that may result from publication. Such review will be taken into account by the Editors-in-Chief in making a final decision concerning publication.

#### **FALSIFIED DATA**

Data published in GCR should be obtained according to the methods indicated, and reported accurately and completely,

so that the experiments or observations can be replicated by another researcher. Alteration of methods, incomplete reporting, fabrication of data, and any other measures that would lead to erroneous conclusions are unethical.

#### **DUPLICATE PUBLICATION AND PLAGIARISM**

It is unethical for authors to publish a substantial portion of their own previously published research results from another paper or monograph. This may also infringe the copyright of the original publisher.

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#### **AUTHORSHIP**

Any person listed as an author of a paper should have contributed substantially to the conception and design, acquisition, analysis and interpretation of data, drafting the paper or revising it critically for important intellectual content, and should have approved the version to be published. Further, anyone contributing substantially to the research (as outlined above) should appear as an author. Including people who do not meet the criteria for authorship on the list of authors is unethical, as is omission of a person who meets the criteria for authorship.

All authors should be aware of submissions and decisions concerning papers of which they are authors. Contributions to a paper by non-authors should be indicated in Acknowledgements published with the paper.

#### **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Reviewers, AEs, and Editors-in-Chief should recuse themselves from evaluation of papers in which they may have a conflict of interest. Conflicts of interest may include relationships (professional or personal) with authors, interest in competing research, or bias concerning the research.