

## Ethical Guidelines for Authors

By submitting to Online Open Access, the authors acknowledge they have reviewed and complied with all ethical guidelines. Submission constitutes a formal declaration that every listed author has read, approved, and takes responsibility for the final content of the manuscript.

### Ethics:

The Online Open Access Editorial Office reserves the right to reject any submission that fails to demonstrate adherence to established scholarly ethical frameworks. We adhere to the principles outlined by COPE – Committee on Publication Ethics. [<https://publicationethics.org/>]

### Conflicts of Interest and Informed Consent Declarations:

This version maintains all the specific legal and ethical nuances while improving the flow and readability.

- **Conflict of Interest Disclosure:** All authors must declare any competing interests, relationships, or connections that could potentially influence the research. This includes personal ties (family, mentors, or adversaries), professional roles, financial support (grants, royalties, or sponsorships), and any political or ideological beliefs related to the topic. If no conflicts exist, the manuscript must include the statement: *"All authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest."*
- **Informed Consent:** For research involving human participants, authors must confirm that informed consent was obtained from participants (or their legal guardians) prior to the study. This applies even if the data is anonymized.
- **Reporting Requirements:** Authors must specify if consent was written or verbal (including the recording method for verbal consent). If a waiver was granted by an ethics committee or legal body, the name of the agency and the reason for the waiver must be disclosed.
- **Mandatory Declarations:** Every article must include a "Conflicts of Interest" section. Studies involving human subjects must also include an "Informed Consent" declaration.

### Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is a grave breach of scholarly integrity and is strictly prohibited. The following actions are considered violations of academic conduct:

1. **Verbatim Copying:** Reproducing any portion of another's work without using quotation marks and providing proper citation.
2. **Conceptual Theft:** Utilizing unique terminology or distinct concepts without attributing them to the original source.
3. **Unattributed Paraphrasing:** Summarizing or restructuring someone else's ideas without acknowledging the foundational text.
4. **Misattribution:** Citing a source for material that did not originate from that specific work.
5. **Data Falsification:** Fabricating or manipulating experimental results; while distinct from plagiarism, this is treated as academic fraud.
6. **Hidden Collaboration:** Failing to transparently credit the specific contributions of all authors or collaborators.
7. **Redundant Submission:** Submitting the same or substantially similar work to multiple publications (self-plagiarism)."

### The use of AI technology:

In accordance with [COPE standards](#), AI tools cannot be credited as authors. As the human author, you take full legal and ethical responsibility for all content within your paper, regardless of how it was produced.

- **Mandatory Disclosure:** If you used AI to help generate, write, or refine your manuscript, you must include a statement in your Acknowledgements describing the technology and how it was used.
- **Standard Software Exceptions:** This policy excludes standard software used for reference management or basic spelling and grammar correction; these tools do not require formal disclosure. You do not need to disclose the use of routine tools like grammar checkers (e.g., Grammarly) or citation managers (e.g., Zotero/EndNote)."

### Medical research

**Medical and ethical guidelines:** ensuring they remain compliant with ICMJE, EMWA, and Helsinki Declaration standards.

- **Contributors and Medical Writing:** In accordance with [ICMJE guidelines](#), all individuals who assisted in preparing the manuscript—including medical writers—must be credited either as co-authors or within the Acknowledgements. Medical writers are required to disclose their employer and any relevant funding sources.
- **Human Research Ethics:** All experimental research involving human subjects must have prior approval from a recognized ethics committee and strictly adhere to the [Helsinki Declaration \(2013\)](#).
- **Informed Consent:** For studies involving human data or clinical imagery, informed consent must be documented in the paper. Authors must provide signed copies of all consent forms before the peer-review process can begin.
- **Animal Welfare:** When reporting animal studies, authors must explicitly state whether they complied with institutional and national standards for the care and use of laboratory animals.

### Ethical Treatment of Subjects (Human & Animal):

Since OOA often covers Animal Science and Dairy, strict protocols are required:

- **Animal Welfare:** Research involving animals must comply with the **3Rs** (Replacement, Reduction, Refinement) and have approval from an **Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)** or equivalent.
- **Human Subjects:** Research involving human participants must have **Informed Consent** and approval from an **Institutional Review Board (IRB)**. Approval numbers must be stated in the manuscript.

### Conflict of Interest Sponsoring and Funding:

All participants in the publication process (authors, editors, and reviewers) must disclose any relationships that could be viewed as a potential conflict of interest.

- **Funding Disclosure:** Authors must list all sources of financial support for the research, including grant numbers.

Authors affiliated with pharmaceutical companies or commercial entities sponsoring clinical trials must adhere to the [GPP3 \(Good Publication Practice\)](#) standards established by the International Society for Medical Publication Professionals. These requirements extend to all parties involved in industry-sponsored manuscripts, including contract research organizations (CROs), communications agencies, and freelance medical writers.

### **Dealing with Misconduct:**

In cases of suspected misconduct (plagiarism, data manipulation, or disputed authorship), the journal will follow the [COPE Flowcharts](#).

- **Corrections & Retractions:** If an error is discovered post-publication, the journal will issue a formal **Correction** (Erratum). If the integrity of the work is compromised, a **Retraction** will be published.

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