**TH Open**

**Publication Ethics and Publication Malpractice Statement**

The ethics statements for *TH Open* are based on the **Committee of Publication Ethics (COPE)** Best Practice Guidelines for Journal Editors ([https://publicationethics.org/](https://publicationethics.org/)).

**Definition of Authorship & Responsibilities of Authors**

Authorship credit should be based on criteria established by the **International Committee of Medical Journal Editors**. Each author should have made the following contributions towards the completion of the manuscript:

- Substantial contributions to conception and design, acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data
- Drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content
- Final approval of the version to be published

Any conflict of interest must be declared at the time of submitting the manuscript. Economic or personal ties between authors and organizations can lead to a conflict of interest. The disclosure of such ties serves to objectify the process of the publication of articles. A conflict of interest exists if the author(s) have links to a company (e.g. consultancy work or acting in an advisory capacity, holding shares in the company, etc.) whose product is named in the article or to a company which sells a rival product. The topic must be presented without bias and descriptions given in the manuscript must be neutral and not favor or disparage any product.

With the submission of a manuscript the authors agree to the guidelines outlined in the journal's Instructions for Authors and must represent original research. The author declares that he/she agrees to the editorial revision of the manuscript (including all images, illustrations, etc.). The author should submit their manuscript to this journal with the knowledge that they cannot submit the same manuscript simultaneously to other journal(s) for consideration of publication. If the same is brought to notice (by any source) to journal editors and Thieme Publishers, their manuscript stands withdrawn after notifying the corresponding author. Editors retain the right to make any necessary changes to the manuscript after consultation with the author(s). If any case of misconduct will be detected, this will lead to an immediate retraction of the article or in minor cases to a correction in one of the following issues according to the publisher’s guidelines.
Editor Roles & Responsibilities

The journal editors are responsible for carrying out and monitoring the complete & un-biased peer-review process, inviting external peer-reviewers according to their expertise to evaluate the contents of submitted manuscripts. The reviewers are requested to evaluate the manuscript on the basis on scope of the journal, novelty of studies carried out in paper, data/statistics provided by the author etc. Journal also sets a specific timeline in which the reviewers are requested to provide the recommendation. Journal editor acts as a guardian to published content, contributing to the dissemination of published information.

The journal editors and Thieme Publishers combat plagiarism, duplicate publication and scientific misconduct. It is journal editor’s prerogative if they choose to reject a manuscript on the basis of:

- if it does not fall in the scope of the journal,
- have high percentage of plagiarized content,
- the paper has been previously published somewhere else,
- any form of scientific misconduct.

Statement on Liability

The legislation on product liability makes increased demands on the duty of care to be exercised by authors of scientific research and publications. We therefore request the author to examine with particular care, also in his/her own interest, the factual correctness of the contents of his/her manuscript once it has been returned in the form of galley proofs. The responsibility for the correctness of data and statements made in the manuscript rests entirely with the author.

Human or Animal Subjects

If the work involves the use of animal or human subjects, the author should ensure that the manuscript contains a statement that all procedures were performed in compliance with relevant laws and institutional guidelines and that the appropriate institutional committee(s) has approved them. Authors should include a statement in the manuscript that informed consent was obtained for experimentation with human subjects. The privacy rights of human subjects must always be observed. Authors are expected to adhere to these standards. For all manuscripts reporting data from studies involving human or animal participants, formal review and approval, or formal review and waiver (exemption), by an appropriate institutional review board (IRB) or ethics committee is required.