



Publishing Ethics: Scientific Research

Società Italiana di Medicina Diagnostica e Terapeutica (SIMEDET)

Introduction

In *Società Italiana di medicina Diagnostica e Terapeutica* (SIMEDET) the integrity of our scientific content and publishing process is paramount. This document outlines the best practice principles that we apply to our documents and journal.

Research Integrity

These principles cover:

- honesty in all aspects of research;
- scrupulous care, thoroughness and excellence in research practice;
- transparency and open communication;
- care and respect for all participants in and subjects of research.

In addition to the general principles above, we expect *Italian Journal of Prevention Diagnostic and Therapeutic Medicine* (IJPDTM) and editorial teams to provide specific guidelines and policies for authors on research integrity and ethics appropriate to their subject matter and discipline. Anyone who believes that research published by SIMEDET has not been carried out in line with these Research Publishing Ethics Guidelines, or the above principles, should raise their concern with the relevant editor or email scientifico@simedet.eu.

Editorial Process

We are committed to editorial independence, and strive in all cases to prevent this principle from being compromised through conflicts of interest, fear, or any other corporate or political influence. Our editorial processes reflect this commitment to editorial independence.

Proposals submitted for our book publishing programme are initially reviewed by in-house editors, who may also consult relevant external book series editors or subject specialists. If the proposal is suitable for consideration by IJPDTM the proposal, along with sample content, will be sent to a minimum of two external and independent peer reviewers. The peer reviewers will then refer to the Editor-in-Chief for final decision about the submitted manuscripts. Our editors are free to solicit additional reviews and guidance post-contract to inform the development of the manuscript

Editorial decisions on articles submitted to our journal are made by external academic editors and based on independent peer review reports.

Peer Review

Peer review is critical to maintaining the standards of our publications. We:

- provide appropriate systems, training and support to facilitate rigorous, fair and effective peer review for all our publications;
- encourage our editors and peer reviewers to familiarise themselves with and act in accordance with relevant best practice guidelines on peer review;
- expect those who oversee the peer review process to be able to recognise warning signs of fraudulent or manipulated peer review, and to raise any concerns by emailing scientifico@simedet.eu. People who oversee the peer review process may be internal to SIMEDET or contracted by us;

- support our editors and peer reviewers in investigating and acting on any suspected cases of manipulated or fraudulent peer review;
- protect the confidentiality of participants in the peer review process where anonymity forms part of that publication's peer review process. We also expect our publishing partners, authors and peer reviewers to uphold any relevant confidentiality arrangements for each manuscript and to provide necessary information to support this.

Authorship

Authorship should be based on the below principles. These should apply to all fields of research:

- 1.Substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data for the work;
 - 2.Drafting the work or revising it critically for important intellectual content;
 - 3.Final approval of the version to be published;
 - 4.Agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.
- Our default position is that the corresponding author has the authority to act on behalf of all co-authors.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is defined as 'submitting as one's own work, irrespective of intent to deceive, that which derives in part or in its entirety from the work of others without due acknowledgement. Examples of plagiarism include copying (using another person's language and/or ideas as if they are one's own), by:

- quoting verbatim another person's work without due acknowledgement of the source;
- paraphrasing another person's work by changing some of the words, or the order of the words, without due acknowledgement of the source;
- using ideas taken from someone else without reference to the originator;
- cutting and pasting from the Internet to make a pastiche of online sources;
- submitting someone else's work as part of one's own without identifying clearly who did the work. For example, not attributing research contributed by others to a joint project.

Plagiarism might also arise from colluding with another person who has not been declared or acknowledged (i.e. where collaboration is concealed or has been forbidden).

Work include a general acknowledgement where it has received substantial help, for example with the language and style of a piece of written work. Plagiarism can occur in respect to all types of sources and media, including:

- text, illustrations, musical quotations, mathematical derivations, computer code, etc.;
- material downloaded from websites or drawn from manuscripts or other media;
- published and unpublished material, including lectures, presentations and grey literature.

We do not tolerate plagiarism in any of our publications, and we reserve the right to check all submissions through appropriate plagiarism checking tools. Submissions containing suspected plagiarism, in whole or part, will be rejected. If plagiarism is discovered post-publication, we will follow our guidance outlined in the Retractions, Corrections and Expressions of Concern section of these guidelines. We expect our readers, reviewers and editors to raise any suspicions of plagiarism, either by contacting the relevant editor or by emailing scientifico@simedet.eu.

Duplicate and Redundant Publication

Duplicate or redundant publication, or 'self-plagiarism', occurs when a work, or substantial parts of a work, is published more than once by the author(s) of the work. This can be in the same or a different language. Redundant publication can occur when there is substantial overlap between two or more publications without appropriate cross-referencing or justification for the overlap. We do not support duplicate or redundant publication, unless:

- it is felt that editorially this will strengthen the academic discourse;
- we have clear approval from the original publication;
- we include citation of the original source.

We expect our readers, reviewers and editors to raise any suspicions of duplicate or redundant publication, either by contacting the relevant editor or by emailing scientifico@simedet.eu.

Research with Humans or Animals Research involving humans or animals should be approved by relevant ethics committee(s) and should conform to international ethical and legal standards for research. We also expect authors to respect human participants' right to privacy, and to gain any necessary consent to publish before submitting to us. For information on whether authors are required to submit or include evidence regarding the above, please contact IJPDTM Editor-in-Chief or email scientifico@simedet.eu.

Conflicts of Interest and Funding

We try to ensure that any publication on IJPDTM is free from undue influence. Authors submitting a manuscript to IJPDTM, employees, editors and reviewers of IJPDTM publications, are required to declare any potential conflicts of interest that could interfere with the objectivity or integrity of a publication. Conflicts of interest are situations that could be perceived to exert an undue influence on the presentation, review and publication of a piece of work. These may be financial, non-financial, professional, contractual or personal in nature. We also expect that anyone who suspects an undisclosed conflict of interest regarding a work published or under consideration by Cambridge University Press should inform the relevant editor or email scientifico@simedet.eu. Many of our publications require the inclusion of a funding declaration in addition to a conflicts of interest declaration.

Libel, Defamation and Freedom of Expression

Freedom of expression is critical to us as academic publishers, but we do not support publishing false statements that harm the reputation of individuals, groups, or organisations. Our legal team can advise on pre-publication libel reviews, and will also address allegations of libel in any of our publications.

Retractions, Corrections and Expressions of Concern

Journal editors will consider retractions, corrections or expressions of concern. If an author is found to have made an error, the journal will issue a corrigendum. If the journal is found to have made an error, they will issue an erratum. Retractions are usually reserved for articles that are so seriously flawed that their findings or conclusions should not be relied upon. Our next step would be to investigate the concern and, if appropriate, address it through dialogue or negotiation with any third parties involved or by referring it to a relevant institution for investigation. If the concern relates to the integrity or accuracy of the content itself, we would consider issuing a correction, or a retraction and withdrawal from sale. Where any content is retracted, we would do so in a way that still preserves the integrity of the academic record and of other affiliated works (for example, other volumes in a series). This includes maintaining any associated metadata and, if legally possible, the abstract.

Falsification, Fabrication and Image Manipulation

Where research data are collected or presented as images, modifying these images can sometimes misrepresent the results obtained or their significance. We recognise that there can be legitimate reasons for modifying images, but we expect authors to avoid modifying images where this leads to the falsification, fabrication, or misrepresentation of their results.

Fraudulent Research and Research Misconduct

Where we are made aware of fraudulent research or research misconduct by any author, our first concern is the integrity of content we have published. We work with SIMEDET's Scientific Committee to investigate. Any publication found to include fraudulent results will be retracted, or an appropriate correction or expression of concern will be issued. Please see the Retractions, Corrections and Expressions of Concern section of these guidelines for more information.

Data and Supporting Evidence

We support transparency and openness around data, code, and other materials associated with research. We expect authors to maintain accurate records of supporting evidence necessary to allow others to understand, verify, and replicate new findings, and to supply or provide access to this supporting evidence, on reasonable request. Where appropriate and where allowed by employer, funding body or others who might have an interest, we encourage authors to deposit data in a suitable repository or storage location, for sharing and further use by others.

Integrity of Record

We maintain a record of the existence of everything we publish with information (metadata) describing each publication. If our content is deemed not to comply with the laws of a sovereign nation, we make every effort to ensure the metadata remain accessible within that jurisdiction. Where we are obliged to alter the publication record in any way, such as in the case of research misconduct leading to retraction of a publication, we preserve the academic record as far possible. See the Retractions, Corrections and Expressions of Concern of these guidelines for information about how we do this.

Ethical Business Practices

Censorship

We will never be complicit in censorship. SIMEDET and IJPDTM is fully committed to the principle and promotion of freedom of speech and expression. As a global publisher, our goal is to disseminate knowledge to the widest possible audience, and to serve the academic community in all countries around the world.

Marketing Communication

Social media and email communication are powerful tools for disseminating and engaging with our publications, for reaching new readers and for keeping content alive. However, such onward communication should never be at the expense of the integrity of the content or of the academic record. All colleagues with responsibility for our social media channels are expected to familiarise themselves with relevant SIMEDET's social media policies, best practice in media use. For all enquiries relating to the integrity of marketing communication of IJPDTM, please contact social@simedet.eu

Advertising

We do not allow any kind of commercial advertising in IJPDTM.

Useful contacts

For all enquiries relating to the integrity of IJPDTM, please contact scientifico@simedet.eu. All queries will be handled sensitively and as confidentially as possible within the scope of any necessary subsequent investigation.

For any general enquiries, contact info@simedet.eu.

To make a request for legal advice relating to Intellectual Property, or to request advice on a specific Intellectual Property acquisition, contact scientifico@simedet.eu.

For enquiries regarding anti-piracy, contact scientifico@simedet.eu

Please check the "*Instructions for Authors*" guidelines on www.ijpdtm.it as a further guide to submit the manuscripts as well.

Useful URLs and informations.

- **Editorial Board:** <https://simedet.eu/rivista-scientifica/journal-board/>
<https://simedet.eu/team/>
<https://www.ijpdtm.it/index.php/ijpdtm/about/editorialTeam>
- **Authors and Authors responsibilities:** <https://www.ijpdtm.it/index.php/ijpdtm/about/submissions>

- **Peer-review process:** <https://simedet.eu/rivista-scientifica/peer-review-process/>
<https://www.ijpdtm.it/index.php/ijpdtm/about>
- **Publication ethics:** <https://simedet.eu/rivista-scientifica/policies-on-conflict-of-interest-human-and-animal-rights-and-informed-consent/>
<https://www.ijpdtm.it/index.php/ijpdtm/editorial>
- **Copyright and access:** <https://www.ijpdtm.it/index.php/ijpdtm/editorial>
<https://www.simedet.eu>
- **Archiving:** <https://www.ijpdtm.it/index.php/ijpdtm/issue/archive>
- **Ownership and management:** <https://simedet.eu/contatti/>
<https://www.ijpdtm.it/index.php/ijpdtm/about/contact>
- **The web site:** <https://www.ijpdtm.it>
- **Publishing schedule:** <https://www.ijpdtm.it/index.php/ijpdtm>
<https://simedet.eu/rivista-scientifica/>
- **Name of the journal:** Italian Journal of Prevention Diagnostic and Therapeutic Medicine (IJPDTM)