Editorial 25:3

Responsibilities of the Editor

Character is like a tree and reputation like its shadow. The shadow is what we think of it; the tree is the real thing.

Abraham Lincoln
16th president of USA (1809 - 1865)

The council of science editors has documented the policy on responsibilities and rights of editors of peer review journals. According to them, journal editors, including both Editors-in-Chief and others such as subject matter editors who share in making policy decisions, are responsible for ensuring that the content of their publications is of high quality, accurate, valid, reliable, credible, authoritative, relevant to the journal’s scope and mission, readable and comprehensible.

Editors must treat all submitted material fairly, consistently and in a timely manner, avoiding bias, conflict of interest and external pressure whilst making editorial decisions. In meeting these obligations, editors have specific responsibilities to authors, readers and peer reviewers.

Editors’ responsibilities are:

Responsibilities to authors:

• Treating authors with fairness, courtesy, objectivity and honesty.
• Rendering timely decisions and responses to authors’ queries.
• Protecting the integrity and privileged nature of every author’s work.
• Setting and monitoring of policy on conflict of interest for authors, editors and reviewers.
• Describing a process for author appeals.
• Describing a process for responding to allegations of misconduct by authors.
• Providing guides for preparing and submitting manuscripts.
• Selecting appropriate and knowledgeable peers to review each paper sent out for review and guiding the peer review process.
• Providing standards for peer reviewers, including maintaining confidentiality of manuscripts, setting appropriate deadlines and supplying references to document their criticisms of the paper’s shortcomings.
• Monitoring and ensuring the fairness, timeliness, thoroughness and civility of the peer review editorial process.

Responsibilities to readers:

• Maintaining the quality of the journal’s content by ensuring that each article provides the readers’ needs to evaluate the author’s conclusions so readers can trust what is printed.
• Requiring all authors to review and accept responsibility for the content of the final draft of each paper; this may involve signatures of only the corresponding author or all authors.
• Maintaining the journals internal integrity (e.g. separating or otherwise identifying science content, editorials and advertising).
• Disclosing sources (authorship, ownership, funding, etc.).
• Distinguishing objective peer review research and reviews from opinion and the journal content from advertising and other promotional content.
• Providing a correspondence section to allow readers’ response and debate (highly recommended although not mandatory).
• Creating mechanisms to determine if the journal is providing what readers need and want (e.g. readers’ surveys).

Responsibilities to peer reviewers:

• Assigning papers for review appropriate to the reviewer’s area of interest and expertise.
• Allowing reviewers appropriate time to complete their reviews.
• Providing reviewers written explicit instructions regarding the journal’s expectations for the content, quality and timeliness of their reviews.
• Providing guidelines and standards for reviewers (preferably in written form) that promote thoughtful, very constructive and informative reviews and facilitate the efficient and timely handling of the papers.
Finding ways to recognize the contribution of reviewers, e.g. by publicly thanking them in the journal’s papers from time to time, providing letters that might be used in applications for academic promotion, etc.

I hope the above is interesting for you to read and together we can strengthen the tree.

I hope you enjoy the current issue, concentrating on mini-extracorporeal circuits and comparison with conventional extracorporeal circuits and other articles.

Editors’ rights:
The Editors’ rights are to establish and maintain high quality content supported by the right to editorial freedom agreed by the publisher.

Mr Prakash P Punjabi
Editor-in-Chief
Perfusion