Research Ethics Policy
Updated 06/30/2020

*Precision Nanomedicine* is a member of the Committee on Publication Ethics ([https://publicationethics.org/](https://publicationethics.org/)) and DOAJ ([https://doaj.org](https://doaj.org)). We expect all prospective authors to read and understand our Ethics Policy before submitting any manuscripts to our journals. The publication of an article in a peer-reviewed journal is a direct reflection of the quality of work of the author and the institutions that support them. Peer-reviewed articles use the scientific method and must comply with the standards of expected ethical behavior.

Please note that all submitted manuscripts are subject to checks using CrossCheck (an [iThenticate](https://ithenticate.com) service) to detect overlapping and similar text. The [iThenticate](https://ithenticate.com) software checks submissions against tens of millions of published research papers, documents on the web, and other relevant sources. There are no numerical limits assigned to these behaviors, and the Editors will personally ask for clarifications if needed. If plagiarism or misconduct is suspected, the editors may ask for clarification. If the additional information is insufficient, the manuscript may be rejected.

**General ethics topics to consider when publishing:**

**Authorship of the paper:** Authorship should be limited to those who have made a significant contribution to the conception, design, execution, or interpretation of the reported study. Transparency about the contributions of authors is encouraged:

- The corresponding author is responsible for ensuring that the descriptions are accurate and agreed upon by all authors.
- The role(s) of all authors, who may have contributed in multiple roles, should be listed at the end of submissions, using relevant categories
- Assigning credits does not change the journal’s criteria following ICMJE definitions for authorship.
- Originality and plagiarism: If the authors have used the work and/or words of others, that must be appropriately cited or quoted. Authors may submit original articles as well as reproducibility and replication studies, i.e., manuscripts that reproduce, evaluate, and confirm research results, as far as they are clearly marked as such and move the field forward. Similarly, discussions of negative results are also welcome.

**Data access and retention:** Authors must preserve their original data as they may be asked to provide the raw data in connection with a paper for editorial review and should be prepared to provide public access to such data. See details in our Data sharing policy. Similarly, the journal and its articles must be archived and preserved on independent servers of archival services ([Portico](https://portico.org)).

**Multiple, redundant, or concurrent publication:** An author should not, in general, publish manuscripts describing essentially the same research in more than one journal or primary publication or submit the same article to multiple journals simultaneously. **reuse of other material (figures / tables) is allowed as long as you have permission of the copyright holder.** Andover House Inc does not consider meeting abstract, academic thesis, or electronic preprint of a work as prior publication. Information on prior publication is included within each Andover House journal’s [guide for authors](https://andoverhouse.com/guide-for-authors).

**Acknowledgment of sources:** The work of others must always be properly acknowledged.

Disclosure and conflicts of interest: All submissions must include disclosure of all relationships that could be viewed as presenting a potential conflict of interest. The perception of a conflict also constitutes a conflict of interest.

**Fundamental errors in published works:** When an author discovers a significant error or inaccuracy in his/her published work, it is the author’s obligation to promptly notify the journal editor or publisher and cooperate with the editor to correct or retract the paper.
**Reporting standards:** Reports should accurately account for the work performed, give credit where it is due, and include and objective discussion.

**Hazards and human or animal subjects:** Statements of compliance are required if the work involves chemicals, procedures or equipment that have any unusual hazards inherent in their use, or if it involves the use of animal or human subjects. For details, see ANHI’s *Human Subjects and Animal Rights Policy*.

**Use of patient images or case details:** Studies on patients or volunteers require ethics committee approval and informed consent, which should be documented in the paper. For details, see our *Informed Consent Policy*.

The goal of our policy is (a) to provide advice for our authors, (b) to maintain the scholarly integrity of our journals and their content, and (c) to detail the ethical responsibilities of authors, our editors, and the Publisher (ANHI).

**Authors should:**

- Ensure that all researched work submitted is appropriately done, fully referenced and that all authors are represented accurately. Reproducibility and replication studies, i.e., manuscripts that reproduce, evaluate, and confirm research results, must clearly be marked as such and move the field forward. Similarly, discussions of negative results are also welcome.
- Provide accurate contact details for a designated corresponding author, who shall be deemed fully responsible for the authorship of the manuscript and all communications concerning the paper. This includes any queries or investigations that may arise, pre-or post-publication. Only one corresponding author can be assigned to any paper. NOTE: Being a corresponding author does not mean being “First” or “Last” author. Giving credit to main contributors is a separate issue, and credits are published in the final form of the paper.
- Openly disclose the source of all data and third-party material, including previously unpublished work by the authors themselves. Anything that could compromise the originality of the submission should be expressly avoided and/or discussed with the editorial office in the first instance.
- Identify any third-party material that they intend to include in their article and obtain written permission for re-use in each instance from the relevant copyright holders. Such permissions should be submitted once the manuscript is accepted or requires small changes to be accepted.
- Openly disclose any conflict of interest – for example, if publication were to benefit a company or services in which the author(s) has a vested interest.
- Expect to sign an Author statement before publication of the final form of their work, which will assume that the author accepts responsibility for the content and truthfulness of their work.
- Expect the editor to scan submissions using plagiarism detection software at iThenticate to check a paper’s originality before sending out for review.
- Fully correspond and comply with the editor and Publisher in any requests for source data, proof of authorship or originality in a timely manner, providing a reasonable explanation for discrepancies or failures to disclose vital information.
- Fully cooperate with any ensuing investigations if the editor and/or publisher are dissatisfied with the evidence available or the explanations provided.
- Expect transparency, efficiency, and respect from the publisher and the editor during the submissions process.
- When necessary, submit corrigenda in a timely and responsible fashion.
• Cooperate fully with the publication of errata and with the retraction of articles found to be unethical, misleading, or damaging.
• Remain in excellent communication with the editor(s), the Publisher, and any co-authors.

Editors will:
• Make decisions based on their expertise after considering the recommendations of the reviewers and professional arguments.
• Follow COPE guidelines as well as Andover House’s policies during all editorial processes.
• Protect the reputation of their journal(s) and published work by only publishing quality content that moves knowledge forward in a timely and responsible manner.
• Organize and lead thorough, objective, and confidential peer review for submissions that pass the initial quality check and editorial assessment, in adherence with COPE guidelines and Andover House journal(s) ethics policy. The purpose of peer review is to help the authors to improve the quality of their submission and potential publication.
• Detail and justify any article types which will not be peer-reviewed (e.g., editorials, opinion pieces, etc.) and describe their handling policy in the respective Authors Guide.
• Provide a transparent review and publication process as far as is possible, with full respect and care paid to the author(s).
• Provide advice and give reasonable explanations and updates to authors during the submissions process and once a decision has been made. Providing advice and suggestions on how to improve their manuscript helps junior authors much better than sharp criticism.
• Allow authors the right to appeal any editorial decision. All professional arguments will be considered.
• Only accept papers based on the merit, quality, and relevance of their content.
• Support authors in queries concerning their submissions and request the support of Publisher if necessary.
• Advise the Publisher of any third-party material which has been included for which they do not believe sufficient permission has been cleared.
• Be ready and prepared to publish corrections, corrigenda, errata when necessary. Do not publish articles that the Editor and Publisher deem unethical, misleading or damaging.
• Remain in good communication with both the publisher and the author(s).

Reviewers should:
• Adhere to Andover House’s policy of confidential peer review of their journal(s). This includes, but is not restricted to, keeping their identity hidden from authors and not externally distribute or use any work that is passed to them for their eyes only.
• Only accept invitations to review work that is relevant to their own expertise and specialty.
• Review submitted work in a responsible, impartial, and timely manner with a positive attitude. Briefly evaluate its merit and suggest ways to improve the manuscript.
• Report any suspected ethical misconduct as part of a thorough and honest review of the work.
• Refrain from personal, inflammatory, or offensive language in their appraisal.
• Accept the commitment to review future versions of the work and provide ‘follow up’ advice to the editor(s), if requested.
• Seek advice from the editor if anything is unclear at the time of invitation.
• Remain in good and timely communication with both the Publisher and the editor.
For Andover House Ethics policy see https://andoverhouse.org/research-ethics-policy