

ASN Policy on Scientific Misconduct

ASN journals uphold the highest standards of peer review and academic publishing. The work of authors and reviewers contributes to our common aim of understanding the latest advances in basic, clinical, and translational research. In very rare instances, editors receive notification or allegations of misconduct related to studies submitted to ASN journals, and our process for responding to such notification is detailed next.

Concerns raised before publication:

If a reviewer or a concerned co-author raises a question about a manuscript that is undergoing peer review and the Editor-in-Chief agrees, then we will notify the author(s) and request a response to the reviewer's concerns. (Such concerns include but are not limited to questions regarding plagiarism, duplicate publication, access to data, and integrity of data or undeclared conflicts of interest.) In most instances, these concerns are readily addressed and resolved and involve honest errors or differences in interpretation rather than any intent to deceive.

If the authors do not respond satisfactorily (or at all) to the concerns raised or if the Editor-in-Chief is presented with evidence that indicates serious concerns regarding the conduct of the study, then the Editor-in-Chief will notify the Chair of the Communications Committee and will determine a course of action, in part determined by applicable laws, which may include any or all of the following:

- a. rejecting the manuscript
- b. prohibiting future submissions from the authors of the manuscript for a specified period of time
- c. obtaining an advisory opinion from the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE)
- d. reporting their concerns to the authors' institutions
- e. reporting their concerns to the funding agency
- f. reporting their concerns to the Office of Research Integrity or other authorized investigative agency

If the matter has been deemed serious enough to warrant the attention of the Communications Committee, then the Communications Chair will keep the ASN President informed of all developments.

Concerns raised after electronic and/or print publication:

If questions are raised by a reader regarding a published study and the Editor-in-Chief agrees, then the journal will notify the author(s) and request a response to the stated concerns. (Such concerns include but are not limited to questions regarding plagiarism, duplicate publication, access to data, and integrity of data or undeclared conflicts of interest.) In most instances, these concerns are readily resolved and involve honest errors or differences in interpretation rather than any intent to deceive.

If the authors do not respond satisfactorily (or at all) to the concerns raised or if the editors are presented with evidence that indicates serious concerns regarding the conduct of the study, then the Editor-in-Chief will notify the Chair of the Communications Committee and determine a

course of action, in part determined by applicable laws, which may include any or all of the following:

- a. reporting their concerns to the authors' institutions
- b. prohibiting future submissions from the authors of the manuscript for a specified period of time
- c. obtaining an advisory opinion from the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE)
- d. reporting their concerns to the funding agency
- e. reporting their concerns to the Office of Research Integrity or other authorized investigative agency
- f. publishing a statement of concern in the journal
- g. issuing a retraction
- h. notifying any other publication involved (in the case of duplicate publication or plagiarism)

If the matter has been deemed serious enough to warrant the attention of the Communications Committee, then the Communications Chair will keep the ASN President informed of all developments.