

Publication ethics and malpractice statement "Archives of Pharmacy Practice"

In today's world, medical research is at its peak compare to past, the diversity and bulk of research specialties in health care science have progressed a lot. This is good in a sense that new treatment modalities are discovered and old ones are tested, validated or modified. However, it is also creating high chances of unethical conduct particularly from early carrier researchers. In most of the cases, authors un-intentionally become part of an unethical conduct, which puts their career and reputation at stake. "Archives of Pharmacy Practice (APP)" has outlined strict rules for publication ethics from day one.^[1] In addition, from time to time, ethical concerns are voiced, so that authors should not neglect the possibility of intentional and unintentional misconduct in publishing.^[2,3] In spite of these reminders, any editor cannot sit calm thinking that everything is fine and all the authors are abiding to the code of conduct of ethics in publishing. During the editorship tenure of four years, three common unethical conducts are highlighted from the articles submitted for peer review to APP.

- Dual publication: Article was published somewhere else and it was submitted for peer review to APP. In some cases, the article was in the press of another journal but was also under peer review in APP.
- Article accepted in APP, but is in peer review in another journal or in consideration for publication in another journal.
- Author denial that he/she has not submitted the article on the online submission system and

APP acceptance of article mail is reported as "SPAM Mail". Later it was found that authors have published the same article in another journal.

Most of these cases were from the developing countries. Half of the misconducts were identified during the editorial assessment, while the rest were highlighted during the peer review and content editing process. In the past, such issues were perhaps dealt politely. However, after joining the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE),^[4] APP will handle such issues based on the standards of COPE. Furthermore, authors committing such crimes will be black listed and their names will be provided to the relevant higher education commission and institution for legal action.

COPE is perhaps one of the largest existing groups of more than 7000 members who are mainly journal editors or renowned researchers in their field. From time-to-time COPE updates the publication ethics guidelines for their members and readers. In addition, COPE also has an e-learning resource for its editors, which is a sort of preliminary training for new editors to make them familiar with publication ethics.^[5] However, these resources are also valuable for the new researchers from developing nations to become familiar with the publication ethics and editorial responsibilities. I expect all the authors will follow the ethical code of conduct outline by COPE. *A researcher who follows the research ethics is far more valuable and fruitful than those who don't.* Being human, we do commit mistakes, but if a minor mistake is hidden, later on it may result in some major problem, which is hard to solve and its consequences may be beyond expectations.

Tahir M. Khan

Editor in Chief,
Archives of Pharmacy Practice

Address for correspondence:

Dr. Tahir M. Khan
School of Pharmacy, Monash University Malaysia, 47500, Bandar Sunway, Selangor Malaysia.
E-mail: tahir.mehmood@monash.edu.

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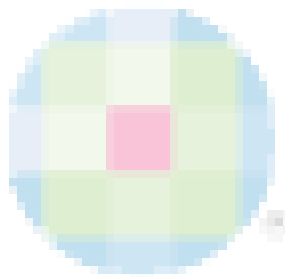
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