

**Journal of the Colombian Academy
of Exact, Physical and Natural Sciences**

General considerations on the ethics of scientific publications and malpractice

Since the first scientific publication appeared 352 years ago in The Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society in London, peer review of manuscripts submitted for publication in journals from different fields has been an essential procedure to assess the quality of scientific work by authors and the institutions that harbor research groups.

The Journal of the Colombian Academy of Exact, Physical and Natural Sciences (RACCEFYN) adheres to the international regulations established by the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE), which can be accessed on COPE guidelines on good publication practice: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1753164/>
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Some general considerations follow regarding the roles of each one of the participants in the editorial process: Editor in chief, Associate Editors, Authors, and Reviewers.

Editor in chief and Associate editors

The Editor in chief and Associate Editors have the responsibility of the editorial labor. Objectivity and confidentiality are the most important criteria to keep in mind. As the Journal scope is multidisciplinary, Associate editors in each one of the disciplines of the Journal constitute the editorial committee, of that particular section and, therefore, they have total autonomy regarding its contents.

Authors

Today, authors can find plenty of information on the ethical conduct they should observe in this respect; however, the Editorial Board of the Journal of the Colombian Academy of Exact, Physical and Natural Sciences (*Revista de la Academia Colombiana de Ciencias Exactas, Físicas y Naturales*), requires that authors consider the following ethical aspects related to the publication of manuscripts, which reflect the principles accepted generally by international scientific journals:

Authorship of manuscripts submitted for publication: By definition, all the authors of a manuscript should have contributed significantly in one or more stages of the research work, i.e., in designing the research proposal, in its development, in the analysis and interpretation of results and findings, and in the drafting of the manuscript. The type of contribution made by each author should be clearly stated at the beginning of the manuscript. Noncompliance with such guideline would constitute fake authorship.

Acknowledgement of contributors: Authors should explicitly and correctly cite in the manuscript those texts, research work and methods taken from other researchers and used in the project that were instrumental in arriving at the results reported in the manuscript. If such contributions are not acknowledged, this will constitute a case of plagiarism.

Duplicate publications: Authors should not publish the same article in more than one journal to prevent duplication or self-plagiarism.

Public access to original data: Authors should be open to provide the original data obtained during their research work for editorial review purposes, for public access as attachments of the article once it is published, and for consultation by other researchers to verify results reproducibility under the same experimental conditions.

Manuscript originality: Authors must express in written that the results reported in the manuscript are original, that the manuscript has not been submitted simultaneously for publication in another journal, and that all authors agree with the results to avoid eventual conflicts among them.

Conflicts of interest: All authors should express potential conflicts of interest that may arise from the publication of the manuscript.

Acknowledgements: It is important to properly acknowledge those institutions that supported the research work. In the case of contributions by other researchers, they should be formally informed of their being mentioned in the acknowledgements and they should accept in writing to be mentioned.

Admittance of errors in published articles: If authors find out errors in an already published research work that may affect results validity, they are in the obligation to report them immediately to the journal editors, and of correcting or retracting the article if it is deemed necessary.

Declaration concerning minimum risk for human health or minimum environmental impact: If the research work involves the use of chemical substances, or of equipment or procedures that may imply a risk for human health or for the environment, authors should state research compliance with current regulations to minimize the risk of using such substances or procedures.

Human and animal research trials: The participation of humans or the use of animals in research projects should be guided by national and international regulations, and, in all cases, it should have the approval of the corresponding ethics committees, as well as duly signed informed consents.

Access to genetic resources and traditional knowledge: If authors of submitted manuscripts have had access to genetic resources or traditional knowledge, they should attach a statement showing that they have complied with national regulations on the matter.

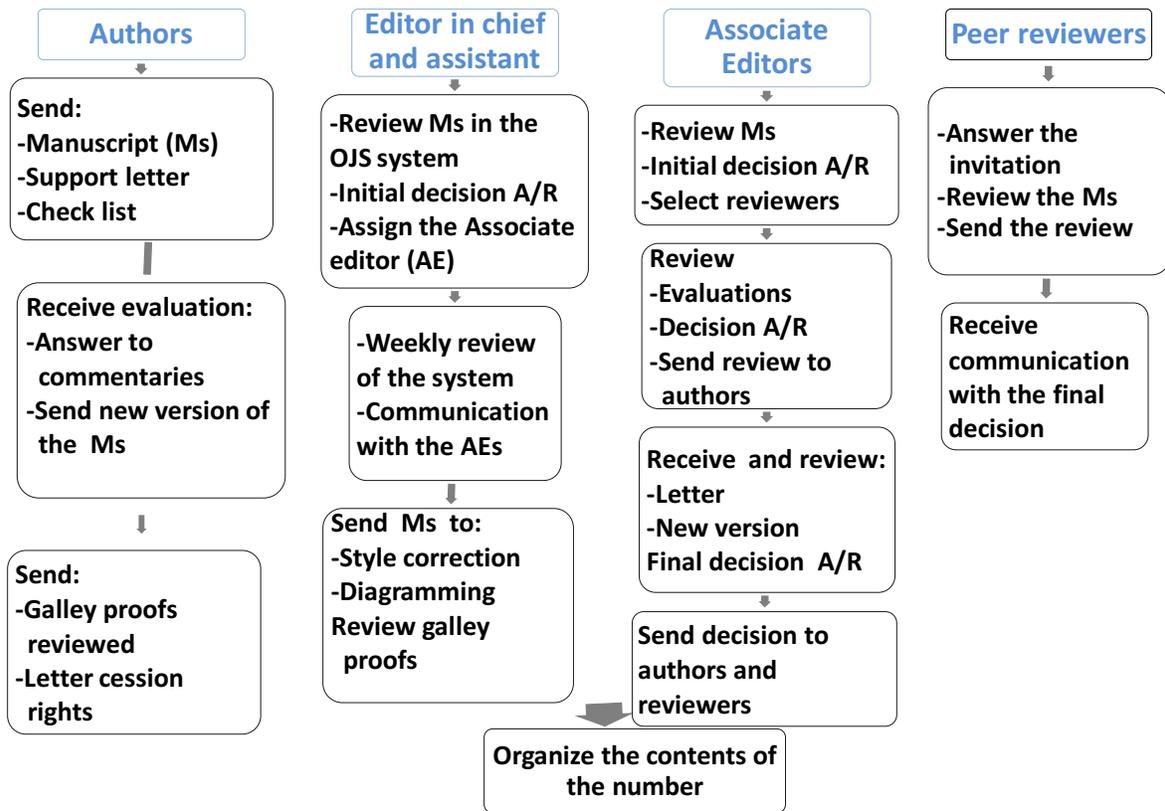
Peer reviewers

When academic peers, to whom authors are blinded, review manuscripts, they look for and value their originality, the validity of the methodology and the importance of the results achieved.

On the other hand, academic peers or reviewers must be conscious of the fact that science and scientific communication rely on confidence. The scientific community trusts that authors responsible for research work have adhered to the principles of scientific integrity and honored the ethics of scientific publication.

Role of peer reviewers: The review of the manuscript by anonymous peer reviewers prevents any type of influence that authors may exert on them. On the other hand, peer reviewers should not share with others the contents or data of the manuscript subjected to their scrutiny if the decision regarding its publication is pending. In the case that the manuscript is rejected, reviewers should keep the decision confidential. The reviewer will restrain from using the information contained in the manuscript for his/her own benefit until it has been published.

A summary of the activities of each one of the participants in the publication of a manuscript in the Journal of the Academy follows::



A statement about malpractice is presented in the document, In brief:

- Authorship of manuscripts submitted for publication
- Acknowledgement of contributors
- Duplicate publications
- Manuscript originality
- Conflicts of interest
- Admittance of errors in published articles