

## **ETHICS & MALPRACTICE STATEMENT**

The Exploratory Materials Science Research uphold rigorous ethical standards to maintain the integrity, quality, and validity of all research published in the fields of science. The ethical guidelines outlined below are designed to foster transparency, accountability, and honesty in the academic publishing process, encompassing the roles and responsibilities of authors, editors, reviewers, publishers, and readers.

These standards are intended to safeguard the reliability and ethical conduct of scientific research, ensuring that all published work adheres to the highest ethical standards and is free from any form of misconduct or ethical violations. The following sections provide detailed information on key aspects of publication ethics relevant to KEF Journals:

- 1) ***Author Obligations and Credit Allocation***
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### **1) *Author Obligations and Credit Allocation***

#### **A. Author Definition and Criteria for Authorship**

The term "Author" or "Authorship" holds various interpretations depending on the context. At Exploratory Materials Science Research, an "Author" or "Co-author" is defined as any individual who has contributed significantly to the research, including the design, data collection, analysis, and interpretation of the study. The title is granted to those who take primary or shared responsibility for the manuscript and its intellectual content.

Individuals who have not made substantial contributions to the intellectual development of the work—whether in data gathering, writing, or conceptualizing the study—shall not be considered authors, regardless of other roles they may have played.

To qualify as an author, one must contribute meaningfully to shaping the research objectives, sourcing credible data, and interpreting findings in a structured manner. The author is also accountable for overseeing the manuscript through the entire submission process, ensuring

that all necessary information, including intellectual property rights, is properly documented and submitted.

In case of any disagreement about authorship, it is essential that the authors notify the journal's editor immediately. Exploratory Materials Science Research encourages collaborative resolution of such issues, but the journal is not responsible for intervening in disputes unless they are raised in a clear and timely manner.

## B. Ethical Responsibilities of Authors

Authors bear the primary responsibility for ensuring their work adheres to the highest ethical standards. This includes safeguarding the accuracy, authenticity, and originality of the research. Key ethical guidelines for authors include:

- **Originality:** Authors must confirm that their research is original and has not been previously published elsewhere. Any prior use of others' ideas or research should be properly cited.
- **Avoiding Plagiarism:** All forms of plagiarism—whether direct, paraphrased, or based on unacknowledged ideas—are strictly prohibited. Authors are encouraged to use plagiarism detection tools to verify the originality of their submission.
- **Data Integrity:** Fabrication or manipulation of data is absolutely forbidden. Authors are expected to ensure their research is conducted according to established scientific principles, with accurate representation of data.
- **Authorship and Contribution:** Only those who have made a genuine intellectual contribution to the research should be listed as authors. All listed authors must have reviewed and approved the final manuscript.
- **Conflicts of Interest:** Authors are obligated to disclose any personal, financial, or professional conflicts that could influence the research process or its outcomes. Such disclosures include funding sources, intellectual property interests, or any relationships that could bias the work.
- **Sharing Data:** Authors are encouraged to make their research data available to others for verification or further study, provided it is presented in a clear and understandable format.
- **Reporting and Accuracy:** Authors must report results accurately, without manipulation or distortion of findings. Inaccurate or incomplete data reporting is considered unethical.
- **Visualizing Data:** Authors are responsible for presenting their data and results clearly and accurately, ensuring that any visual aids, charts, or statistical analyses are appropriately constructed.
- **Privacy and Data Security:** It is the authors' responsibility to ensure that all data, particularly sensitive information from research participants, is kept confidential and secure in line with relevant laws and regulations.
- **Protocol Adherence:** Following established research protocols is essential. Any deviation from agreed-upon research methodologies, or refusal to share findings within the research community, may be seen as negligent behaviour.
- **Authenticity of Submission:** Authors must ensure their submitted work is authentic and free from any form of plagiarism, falsification, or ethical breaches. The editor, reviewer, and readers rely on authors to uphold the integrity of the scientific process.
- **Professionalism:** Authors must conduct themselves professionally in all interactions related to the journal, particularly in meeting deadlines and addressing any issues promptly. Professional communication is essential throughout the publication process.

- **Funding Transparency:** Authors are required to disclose all sources of funding for their research. This includes both direct and indirect financial support, as well as any involvement by funding organizations in the research process.

### C. The Author's Obligations Toward the Editor

The author holds significant responsibilities toward the journal's editor throughout the submission and review process. After submitting the manuscript, the author must be prepared to collaborate closely with the editor, promptly providing any supplementary materials or clarifications as needed.

The author must submit all requested documents, such as additional proofs or revisions, in a timely manner. If conflicts of interest arise, these must be communicated to the editor promptly.

Moreover, the author must disclose any prior publications related to the current research. It is essential that the author ensure no part of the manuscript has been published elsewhere without appropriate acknowledgment. If certain sections of the research have appeared in other publications, the author is expected to inform the editor prior to submission.

### D. Addressing and Resolving Authorship Conflicts

Conflicts over authorship may arise for various reasons, such as dual authorship, multi-authorship, or group authorship scenarios. These issues can emerge at any stage of the research or submission process, and it is the responsibility of the authors to address them.

Exploratory Materials Science Research does not engage in mediating authorship disputes or deciding who qualifies for authorship. The responsibility rests with the authors to resolve any issues, and they are required to provide a signed statement confirming the authorship order before submission.

In cases of post-publication disputes, authors should resolve the issue among themselves. While conflicts can be complex, particularly where institutions, funding bodies, or academic hierarchies are involved, external mediation may be pursued if necessary. The journal does not intervene in such matters but encourages authors to seek appropriate resolution through institutional channels or arbitration.

## 2) ***Authenticity and Anti-Plagiarism Standards***

### **Plagiarism – A Violation of Scholarly Integrity**

Plagiarism, defined as the act of presenting another's intellectual property as one's own, remains a pervasive issue in academic publishing. It undermines the principles of originality and integrity that are fundamental to scholarly communication.

To safeguard the credibility of Exploratory Materials Science Researchs and its publications, all authors submitting manuscripts are required to sign a declaration affirming the originality of their work. This declaration confirms that the work has neither been previously published nor

concurrently submitted elsewhere. Authors are also expected to adhere to proper citation practices, giving due credit to all original sources referenced in their research.

### **Plagiarism Policies of Exploratory Materials Science Research**

- **Definition:** Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, copying text verbatim without proper citation, paraphrasing without attribution, and reusing one's own prior work without disclosing previous publication.
- **Originality:** Exploratory Materials Science Research mandates that all submissions are original and have not been published elsewhere. Authors must also ensure proper acknowledgment of all contributors in the manuscript and list them in accordance with their actual contributions.
- **Citation and Attribution:** Proper citation of all sources is essential, and each journal may have specific guidelines regarding citation styles. All figures, tables, and other visual aids must also be appropriately credited.
- **Review Process:** Exploratory Materials Science Research employs a stringent peer review process, which includes plagiarism detection tools. Reviewers are trained to identify potential instances of plagiarism and report them to the editorial team.
- **Consequences of Plagiarism:** Should plagiarism be detected, Exploratory Materials Science Research may impose severe sanctions. These may include retraction of the manuscript, prohibition on future submissions, or formal notification to the author's affiliated institution.

### **Impact of Plagiarism**

Plagiarism not only damages the reputation of the author but also erodes the integrity of academic publishing. It is a form of deceit that undermines the foundation of intellectual property and distorts the credibility of research.

### **Detection of Plagiarism**

While detecting plagiarism can be challenging, advances in technology have significantly improved this process. Reviewers are familiar with published work within their fields and can often identify copied content. Furthermore, Exploratory Materials Science Research employs plagiarism detection software to identify potential instances of copied material.

### **Best Practices for Avoiding Plagiarism**

- Always credit the original sources of information.
- Accurately cite all references and sources of ideas.
- Provide appropriate acknowledgments and footnotes.
- Paraphrase properly and ensure the original meaning is retained.
- Obtain permission for extensive quotations and use of copyrighted material.
- Seek permission to reuse your own previously published content to avoid self-plagiarism.
- Secure authorization for the use of published illustrations or figures.

### **Handling Translations**

If submitting a translated manuscript, authors must disclose the source of the original work and obtain prior permission from the original author or publisher. This should be clearly stated

in the manuscript upon submission, and supplementary materials for verification should be provided to the editorial office.

By adhering to these principles, Exploratory Materials Science Research maintains the integrity of its publications and upholds the standards of academic excellence.

### 3) ***Peer-Review Process and Evaluation Criteria***

Our journal follows a double-blinded peer review process to ensure impartiality and transparency in evaluating submissions.

1. **Submission:** Authors submit their manuscript through our online system, with no identifying information about the authors visible to the reviewers.
2. **Initial Screening:** The editorial team reviews the manuscript for alignment with the journal's scope and adherence to submission guidelines. Manuscripts that don't meet the basic criteria are rejected.
3. **Reviewer Assignment:** Qualified experts in the field are selected to review the manuscript. Both the reviewers and authors remain anonymous to each other throughout the process.
4. **Peer Review:** Reviewers evaluate the manuscript based on originality, scientific rigor, clarity, and relevance to the field. They provide detailed feedback and recommend whether the manuscript should be accepted, revised, or rejected.
5. **Decision:** Based on reviewer feedback, the editor makes a decision:
  - **Accept:** If the manuscript meets all criteria.
  - **Revise:** If minor or major revisions are needed.
  - **Reject:** If the manuscript is deemed unsuitable for publication.
6. **Revisions:** Authors address reviewer comments and resubmit the manuscript within the given time frame. If necessary, the manuscript may undergo further rounds of review.
7. **Final Acceptance:** Once revisions are completed and accepted, the manuscript is scheduled for publication.

### 4) ***Editorial Guidelines and Editors' Responsibilities***

Editors are integral to the publishing process, ensuring the quality, integrity, and accuracy of journal content. They oversee all stages of the manuscript's lifecycle, from submission to final publication. Their key responsibilities include:

#### **Manuscript Evaluation and Screening**

Editors are responsible for reviewing submitted manuscripts to assess their relevance, originality, and adherence to the journal's scope and quality standards. They ensure that the research aligns with the journal's objectives and meets academic rigor.

#### **Peer Review Management**

Editors manage the peer review process by selecting expert reviewers, facilitating communication between authors and reviewers, and ensuring timely feedback. They ensure the review process is fair, objective, and maintains the highest standards of quality.

#### **Editorial Decision-Making**

Editors make final decisions regarding manuscript acceptance, rejection, or revision, based on peer reviews and the manuscript's overall quality. Their decisions are made transparently, ensuring fairness and adherence to the journal's standards.

### **Ethical Oversight**

Editors are responsible for ensuring that all submitted research complies with ethical standards, including proper conduct, disclosure of conflicts of interest, and adherence to the journal's ethical policies.

### **Post-Publication Activities**

Editors are involved in post-publication tasks such as promoting published work, addressing reader feedback, and correcting any errors that may arise.

### **Collaboration with Authors**

Editors provide guidance to authors throughout the submission and review process, ensuring the manuscript is presented in the best possible manner. They communicate feedback constructively and guide authors in making necessary revisions.

### **Strategic Planning**

Editors contribute to the journal's strategic direction, working closely with publishers to set editorial goals and ensure the journal's long-term success.

### **Ethical Standards for Editors**

Editors must adhere to stringent ethical guidelines to uphold the journal's credibility:

- **Confidentiality:** Editors must maintain strict confidentiality regarding all manuscripts and related communications.
- **Fairness:** Manuscripts must be evaluated solely based on their scientific merit, without bias towards authors' identity or affiliation.
- **Conflict of Interest:** Editors must disclose any potential conflicts of interest and recuse themselves from handling manuscripts where such conflicts exist.
- **Timeliness:** Editors must ensure that the manuscript review and publication process is conducted promptly.
- **Misconduct and Ethical Concerns:** Editors must address allegations of research misconduct or ethical violations thoroughly and impartially.
- **Transparency:** Editorial decisions and policies must be transparent and clearly communicated to authors and reviewers.

### **Editor's Responsibility Toward Reviewers and Authors**

Editors manage the relationship between the journal, reviewers, and authors, ensuring the review process is thorough and unbiased:

- **Reviewer Selection:** Editors assign manuscripts to appropriate reviewers with expertise in the relevant field.
- **Confidentiality and Ethics:** Editors ensure that reviewers maintain confidentiality and do not misuse the information in manuscripts.
- **Clear Communication:** Editors provide reviewers with clear instructions and ample time for completing their assessments. They also ensure constructive feedback is communicated to authors.
- **Authorship and Contributions:** Editors must ensure proper authorship attribution and prevent authorship disputes by verifying that all listed authors have contributed significantly to the work.

### **Responsibility Toward the Scientific Community**

Editors safeguard the integrity of the scientific community by ensuring that all published research meets high academic and ethical standards:

- **Scientific Rigor:** Editors assess whether manuscripts provide valuable insights, valid conclusions, and proper evidence.
- **Transparency in Publication:** Editors ensure that the published research is appropriately referenced and that any potential conflicts of interest are disclosed.

#### **Publisher's Relationship**

Editors work closely with the publisher to uphold the journal's standards and mission:

- **Compliance:** Editors ensure adherence to the publisher's guidelines, fiscal policies, and publication schedule.
- **Evaluation and Dissemination:** Editors contribute to enhancing the evaluation and dissemination of quality scientific content.

In conclusion, editors play a critical role in maintaining the academic integrity of Exploratory Materials Science Research. Their duties span from ensuring rigorous manuscript screening and peer review, to promoting ethical standards and overseeing post-publication activities. By fulfilling these responsibilities, editors uphold the journal's quality and reputation, ensuring the publication of scientifically valid and ethically sound research.

### 5) **Duties and Expectations of Reviewers**

At Exploratory Materials Science Research, reviewers are critical to maintaining the quality and integrity of the research we publish. Their role is essential to ensuring the accuracy, relevance, and validity of submitted manuscripts. The following outlines the responsibilities and expectations of our reviewers:

#### **Reviewer Selection**

Reviewers are selected based on their expertise, reputation, and experience in the relevant field. We prioritize impartiality and fairness, ensuring that reviewers uphold the highest standards of academic quality.

#### **Reviewer Responsibilities**

Reviewers are tasked with evaluating manuscripts in a timely and professional manner. This includes assessing the research methodology, manuscript organization, clarity, and identifying any potential biases or limitations. Constructive, actionable feedback is required, while reviewers must maintain confidentiality and avoid conflicts of interest.

#### **Reviewer Feedback**

Reviewers should provide feedback that is specific, respectful, and objective. Personal attacks or unconstructive criticism are unacceptable. Feedback should aim to improve the manuscript, ensuring the research aligns with the journal's standards.

#### **Reviewer Recognition**

Exploratory Materials Science Research acknowledges the efforts of reviewers by listing their names on the journal's website and inviting them to participate in editorial activities or the editorial board.

#### **Timeliness and Responsiveness**

Reviewers are expected to provide feedback within 2-4 weeks. Delays in the review process should be communicated promptly to the editorial team, as timely reviews are crucial to maintaining publication schedules.

#### **Competence**

Reviewers must only accept manuscripts within their area of expertise and are responsible for communicating any limitations in their ability to evaluate the manuscript appropriately.

### **Conflict of Interest**

Reviewers must disclose any conflicts of interest that may affect their objectivity and should recuse themselves if necessary. Conflicts include, but are not limited to, financial, personal, or professional relationships with the authors or the research.

Reviewers should avoid the following:

- Presenting biased or inaccurate facts in reviews
- Delaying the review process without valid reason
- Criticizing competitors unfairly
- Breaching confidentiality
- Using knowledge gained from the review process for personal gain
- Failing to disclose conflicts of interest

### **Reporting Misconduct**

If reviewers suspect research misconduct or have ethical concerns, they must immediately inform the editorial office. All evaluations should be based solely on the manuscript's scientific merit, not on the author's identity or affiliations.

### **Impartiality and Integrity**

Reviewers must evaluate manuscripts objectively, based only on scientific merit and relevance to the journal's scope. Discriminatory factors such as race, nationality, or gender should not influence their assessment.

### **Reviewer Training and Support**

Exploratory Materials Science Research provides guidance and resources to help reviewers perform their duties effectively. Reviewers may also have access to training or mentorship opportunities.

### **Confidentiality**

Reviewers must maintain the confidentiality of the manuscript and review process. Manuscripts should not be shared or discussed with anyone outside the review process without explicit consent from the editor.

### **Peer Reviewer's Responsibilities toward the Author**

- **Constructive Feedback:** Reviewers must provide unbiased, professional, and constructive feedback to authors, aiming to improve the manuscript's quality.
- **Confidentiality:** Reviewers must respect the confidentiality of the manuscript and refrain from using any information for personal gain.
- **Professionalism:** Feedback should be formal and focused on the manuscript's scientific quality. Unprofessional or personal criticism is prohibited.

### **Peer Reviewer's Responsibilities toward the Editor**

- **Timeliness:** Reviewers must provide timely feedback to assist editors in meeting publication deadlines.
- **Clear Communication:** If conflicts of interest arise, reviewers should disclose them to the editor promptly. Any financial conflicts or other issues should be addressed immediately.
- **Constructive Criticism:** Reviewers should offer insightful feedback that is based on the manuscript's scientific merit and within the journal's guidelines.

In conclusion, Exploratory Materials Science Research relies on the integrity and expertise of our reviewers to ensure the accuracy and quality of the research we publish. Reviewers must



fulfil their responsibilities professionally, ethically, and with due diligence to uphold the journal's high standards.

## 6) ***Commitment to Transparency***

Transparency is a key principle in the publishing process, ensuring that authors, peer reviewers, and the Editor-in-chief collaboratively uphold the integrity of the journal. Proper disclosure and transparency reduce conflicts and facilitate a smooth publication process.

- **Disclosure:** Authors must disclose any potential conflicts of interest, funding sources, and affiliations that could influence their research findings.
- **Reproducibility:** Authors should provide sufficient data and method descriptions to allow replication and verification of their results.
- **Confidentiality:** Exploratory Materials Science Research ensures that both authors and reviewers are aware of and comply with confidentiality and privacy policies, safeguarding personal and sensitive information.
- **Funding Transparency:** Authors must disclose all funding sources and financial interests that may impact their research.
- **Peer Review Transparency:** Exploratory Materials Science Research maintains transparency in the peer review process by clearly communicating the criteria and procedures followed, including information about the reviewers.

## 7) ***Data Integrity, Security, and Quality Assurance***

Exploratory Materials Science Research upholds the highest standards of research integrity, specifically regarding data accuracy and ethical conduct. Any manipulation, fabrication, or falsification of research data-whether in text, images, or other materials-is strictly prohibited. This includes altering images, graphs, or text to mislead or misrepresent findings.

### **Data Integrity and Ethical Conduct:**

- **Data Manipulation and Fabrication:** Researchers must not manipulate or fabricate data to support their conclusions. Any attempt at altering data or visual content to misrepresent research findings is considered unethical.
- **Review Process:** Exploratory Materials Science Research' reviewers and editors are trained to detect potential data manipulation through detailed scrutiny of statistical data, including P-values, tables, odds ratios, and confidence intervals.

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### **Data Management and Ownership:**

- **Data Ownership:** All research data collected or processed by Exploratory Materials Science Research remains the property of the organization. EXPLORATORY MATERIALS SCIENCE RESEARCH is responsible for ensuring legal and ethical management of this data.
- **Data Privacy and Confidentiality:** Exploratory Materials Science Research commits to protecting personal and sensitive data. All stakeholders, including authors, reviewers, and editors, must ensure confidentiality and disclose data only for legitimate purposes with explicit consent from data subjects.

### **Data Quality Assurance:**

- **Accuracy and Completeness:** Authors, reviewers, and editors must ensure that all data submitted or reviewed is accurate, complete, and free of inconsistencies. Exploratory

Materials Science Research implements quality control measures to maintain high standards of scientific research.

- **Error Correction:** Any discrepancies identified in the data must be promptly corrected, and Exploratory Materials Science Research ensures systematic review processes to guarantee the accuracy of published materials.

**Data Retention, Access, and Disposal:**

- **Data Retention:** Exploratory Materials Science Research retains data only as long as necessary for legitimate research purposes and legal compliance. Data is disposed of securely once its retention period ends.
- **Data Access and Usage:** Access to data is restricted to authorized personnel only. Exploratory Materials Science Research enforces strict data access policies and regularly monitors usage to prevent unauthorized access.
- **Data Security:** Exploratory Materials Science Research applies technical and organizational safeguards to protect data from unauthorized access or breaches. In case of a breach, a response plan is in place to minimize impact.

**Data Governance and Oversight:**

- **Governance Policies:** Exploratory Materials Science Research has established a dedicated team to oversee data management, including classification, storage, and archiving. Regular audits ensure adherence to governance standards.
- **Enforcement and Consequences:** Any violation of these data management policies may result in disciplinary action, including manuscript rejection, legal consequences, or further sanctions.

**Post-Submission and Publication Oversight:**

- **Data Verification:** Editors and reviewers have the authority to request raw data from authors to verify the accuracy and authenticity of submitted work. Post-publication, editors may request data verification if any concerns arise.

All authors, reviewers, and editors are expected to comply with these policies, ensuring that data is handled in an ethical, secure, and transparent manner. Regular policy reviews will be conducted to ensure compliance with evolving legal and regulatory requirements.

**8) *Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest***

Exploratory Materials Science Research is committed to maintaining the integrity and quality of its publications by addressing and managing potential conflicts of interest (COIs). These may arise from personal, professional, or financial relationships that could influence judgment and the publication process.

**Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest:**

- **Authors, reviewers, and editors** must disclose any potential conflicts of interest that may affect the interpretation or presentation of research. This includes financial, personal, or professional relationships that could bias the work.

**Evaluation and Management:**

- **Editors** will assess disclosed conflicts of interest and determine whether they pose a risk to the integrity of the publication. If a COI is identified, corrective measures will be taken, which

may include additional disclosures, recusal from the review process, or other appropriate actions.

**Review Process:**

- Reviewers are required to notify the editor of any potential conflicts of interest that could compromise impartiality. Editors will then take appropriate steps to resolve the issue, ensuring that the review process remains unbiased.

**Editorial Independence:**

- Exploratory Materials Science Research upholds strict editorial independence. External pressures, including influence from authors, sponsors, or advertisers, will not affect editorial decisions. Editorial decisions are made based solely on scientific merit and relevance.

**Transparency:**

- All COIs related to a publication will be disclosed to readers. Transparency ensures trust in the publication process and reinforces the credibility of our journals.

**Impact of Concealed Conflicts:**

- Unreported COIs can distort decision-making and lead to biased judgments, potentially compromising the research's objectivity and reliability.

**Conflict Resolution:**

- Exploratory Materials Science Research treats conflicts of interest as preventable and resolvable. We actively work to address and resolve conflicts through transparent, fair processes, ensuring the integrity of the research community.

By ensuring proper COI disclosure and resolution, Exploratory Materials Science Research safeguards the objectivity of its publications and promotes trust in the scholarly process.

## 9) ***Addressing Scientific Misconduct***

Exploratory Materials Science Research is committed to maintaining the highest ethical standards in research and publication. Researchers must adhere to ethical guidelines, including obtaining informed consent from human subjects, using animals responsibly and ethically, and avoiding any form of misconduct.

**Identification and Handling of Research Misconduct:**

Exploratory Materials Science Research takes research misconduct, including plagiarism, citation manipulation, and data falsification/fabrication, very seriously. Editors are responsible for identifying and addressing any such misconduct. The peer review process helps identify potential issues, and reviewers should be informed of the possibility of misconduct.

If serious misconduct is suspected (e.g., falsification, data fabrication, plagiarism, image manipulation), it must be investigated thoroughly. Actions may include retraction of published articles or banning authors from future publications. Authors will be given the opportunity to respond to allegations, and investigations will be conducted promptly and fairly.

**Scientific Misconduct Policies:**

1. **Plagiarism:** Any form of plagiarism is strictly prohibited. All submissions are screened for plagiarism, and any detected instances will result in rejection or retraction of the publication.
2. **Data Falsification:** Falsification of data is prohibited. Authors must ensure that all data presented is accurate and truthful. Falsified data will lead to rejection or retraction.

3. **Data Fabrication:** Fabrication of data is considered scientific misconduct. Authors must provide valid and reliable data. Fabricated data will result in rejection or retraction.
4. **Authorship:** Authorship is restricted to those who have made significant contributions to the research. Individuals who do not meet the authorship criteria should be acknowledged in the acknowledgment section.
5. **Conflicts of Interest:** Authors must disclose any conflicts of interest, including financial or personal relationships, that could bias the research.
6. **Retraction:** If misconduct is discovered post-publication, Exploratory Materials Science Research will retract the article and notify relevant parties, including funding agencies, institutions, and other publishers.

**Procedures for Misconduct:**

Exploratory Materials Science Research does not investigate misconduct directly but will alert relevant authorities, including academic institutions and funding bodies, for further action. We are committed to transparency and integrity in the publication process.

In all cases of misconduct, Exploratory Materials Science Research will take immediate corrective actions to protect the integrity of the scientific record.

**10) Ethical Considerations for Informed Consent**

Exploratory Materials Science Research is committed to ensuring that research involving human and animal subjects is conducted ethically and in compliance with relevant guidelines.

1. **Informed Consent:** Researchers must obtain informed consent from human participants before data collection. This includes providing a clear explanation of the study's purpose, procedures, risks, and benefits. Consent must be documented in a manner that respects participants' privacy and dignity, with adequate time for consideration and free from coercion.
2. **Ethical Approval:** All research involving human or animal subjects must receive prior approval from an institutional review board (IRB) or ethics committee. Authors must provide evidence of such approval upon submission.
3. **Animal Welfare:** Research involving animals must adhere to ethical guidelines, minimizing harm and distress. Ethical approval from relevant committees must be obtained, and compliance with international standards must be demonstrated.
4. **Exemption:** In cases where informed consent is not feasible, such as retrospective data analysis, authors must justify the exemption and ensure that alternative measures have been implemented to protect participant rights and privacy.
5. **Documentation and Compliance:** The material and methods section of the submission must confirm that ethical approval has been obtained, detailing the relevant committee and the specific guidelines followed.
6. **Human and Animal Rights:** Authors must comply with all relevant laws and international guidelines for research involving human or animal subjects. This includes confirming that informed consent was obtained from human participants and ethical approval was granted for animal research.

Any submission lacking proper informed consent or ethical approval will be rejected or returned for revisions to meet these standards.

## 11) **Policy on Article Retraction and Correction**

Exploratory Materials Science Research is committed to maintaining the integrity of the research we publish. In cases of errors, omissions, or issues requiring correction or retraction, we adhere to the following policies:

### **Corrections**

- Errors or omissions identified by authors or readers must be promptly reported to the editorial team. A correction or erratum will be issued as appropriate.
- Authors must notify the journal of necessary corrections that affect the data interpretation or reliability, with the consent of all authors.
- Corrections will be linked to the original article and may be issued as a *Corrigendum*, *Correction*, *Retraction*, or in exceptional cases, *Removal*.

### **Reprints and Galley Proofs**

- Errors identified during reprints will be corrected before final publication. After the DOI is generated, no further changes will be made unless they impact scientific integrity.

### **Online First Publication**

- Changes requested after the article has been published online will be considered by the editorial team. Major corrections will result in the update of the article DOI, with a correction notice issued.

### **Retractions**

- Articles will be retracted if there are significant errors invalidating conclusions or data interpretation. Retraction may occur due to:
  - Research or publication misconduct (e.g., data fabrication, plagiarism, or fraudulent authorship).
  - Ethical violations or inappropriate methodologies.
- A retraction notice will be issued and linked to the original article. A retracted article may be watermarked or replaced with a retraction statement. The article will not be republished elsewhere.
- Retraction decisions are final; no further appeals will be considered.

### **Removal of Articles**

- Articles may be removed under rare circumstances such as:
  - Serious errors or risks that cannot be addressed by correction or retraction.
  - Legal issues, including court orders, defamation, privacy violations, or duplicate publication.
- A removal notice will be issued, and the article metadata will remain available.

### **Article Withdrawal**

- Authors may request withdrawal of a submission during the review process, provided valid reasons are given. Articles withdrawn after acceptance or DOI generation will not be considered.

### **Article Replacement (Re-publication of Retraction)**

Authors who resolve issues leading to retraction may inquire about re-publication. The revised manuscript will undergo peer review, and a new DOI will be issued. The original retracted article, along with the retraction statement, will be archived and accessible.

### **Post-publication Updates**

Exploratory Materials Science Research allow for corrections or updates post-publication. This includes issuing errata or providing updated information in subsequent publications.

## **12) Policy on Submitting Manuscripts to Multiple Journals**

Duplicate submission is a form of scientific misconduct where authors submit the same or substantially similar work to multiple journals, often with different titles. This practice is unethical and wasteful of editorial and review resources. Exploratory Materials Science Research only accept original, unique manuscripts.

### **Why Duplicate Submission is Problematic:**

- **Copyright Violation:** The copyright of a published article belongs to the journal, not the authors, and republishing without permission infringes on this.
- **Distortion of Empirical Evidence:** Duplicate submissions skew the research record by counting the same data multiple times.
- **Self-Plagiarism:** Reusing material without proper attribution is considered self-plagiarism.
- **Waste of Resources:** Duplicate submissions waste editorial and peer review resources.
- **Poor Scholarship:** It undermines the quality and integrity of scientific literature.

### **Author Guidelines:**

- **Avoid Copying Content:** Do not reuse material from your previously published work without proper citation.
- **No Unauthorized Release:** Do not share unpublished work without prior permission from the journal.
- **Citation of Previous Work:** If quoting previous work, use short quotes, provide proper citations, and ensure the text is enclosed in quotation marks.
- **Multiple Manuscripts:** If submitting multiple manuscripts from the same dataset, ensure each manuscript addresses distinct research questions. Inform the journal editors in your cover letter about the related manuscripts and include prior work details for transparency.

### **Exploratory Materials Science Research' Policy on Duplicate Submissions:**

- **Exclusive Submission:** Submissions must be exclusive to Exploratory Materials Science Research. Authors must disclose if the work has been previously published or is under consideration elsewhere.
- **Original Work:** Only original work that has not been published or accepted elsewhere will be considered. Duplicate or overlapping content is not accepted.
- **Detection and Rejection:** We use advanced software to detect duplicate submissions and overlapping content. Submissions identified as duplicates will be rejected, and authors will be notified.
- **Retraction:** If duplicate publication is discovered post-publication, the article will be retracted, and relevant parties, including funding agencies and institutions, will be notified.

### **13) Copyright Ownership and Licensing Agreement**

By submitting an article to Exploratory Materials Science Research, authors agree that the copyright of the published material will remain with the publisher. Authors grant the publisher exclusive rights to publish, distribute, and license the content in all formats and media, including but not limited to print, online, and electronic.

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### **14) Article Processing Fees (APC) Guidelines**

Exploratory Materials Science Research does not impose any Article Processing Charges (APC) for the publication of manuscripts. There are no fees required from authors at any stage of the publication process.

### **15) Policy on Redundant or Duplicate Publications**

Exploratory Materials Science Research define redundant publication as the act of submitting or attempting to publish the same work multiple times. This practice is both inefficient and detrimental to the scholarly community.

#### **Impact of Redundant Publication:**

1. **On Meta-Analysis:** Redundant publications can distort meta-analytic findings, leading to biased conclusions, akin to counting data more than once.
2. **On Journal Resources:** Duplicate submissions waste valuable time and resources, particularly that of peer reviewers, who volunteer their expertise without compensation.
3. **On Academic Integrity:** Publishing the same research multiple times artificially inflates a researcher's academic record, which undermines the credibility of their work and misrepresents their productivity.

#### **EXPLORATORY MATERIALS SCIENCE RESEARCH's Response to Redundant Publications:**

In cases of obvious redundancy, EXPLORATORY MATERIALS SCIENCE RESEARCH will reject the second submission and notify the authors. This approach ensures that only original, unique research contributes to the academic record, upholding the integrity of the scholarly process. If there is overlap in content, editors will address the issue according to the extent of the redundancy.

## **16) *Consequences of Ethical Violations***

If any breaches of EXPLORATORY MATERIALS SCIENCE RESEARCH's publication ethics policies are identified, the following sanctions may be applied:

- Authors may be prohibited from submitting to any Exploratory Materials Science Research.
- Users may be restricted from accessing website content.
- Reviewers or editors may be removed from the editorial panel.
- Manuscripts may be rejected during the review process.