

## CODE OF CONDUCT FOR JOURNAL PUBLISHERS

**Publishers who are Committee on Publication Ethics members and who support COPE membership for journal editors should:**

- **Follow this code, and encourage the editors they work with to follow the COPE Code of Conduct for Journal Editors ([http://publicationethics.org/files/u2/New\\_Code.pdf](http://publicationethics.org/files/u2/New_Code.pdf))**
- **Ensure the editors and journals they work with are aware of what their membership of COPE provides and entails**
- **Provide reasonable practical support to editors so that they can follow the COPE Code of Conduct for Journal Editors ([http://publicationethics.org/files/u2/New\\_Code.pdf](http://publicationethics.org/files/u2/New_Code.pdf))**

**Publishers should:**

- **Define the relationship between publisher, editor and other parties in a contract**
- **Respect privacy (for example, for research participants, for authors, for peer reviewers)**
- **Protect intellectual property and copyright**
- **Foster editorial independence**

**Publishers should work with journal editors to:**

- **Set journal policies appropriately and aim to meet those policies, particularly with respect to:**
  - **Editorial independence**
  - **Research ethics, including confidentiality, consent, and the special requirements for human and animal research**
  - **Authorship**
  - **Transparency and integrity (for example, conflicts of interest, research funding, reporting standards)**
  - **Peer review and the role of the editorial team beyond that of the journal editor**
  - **Appeals and complaints**
- **Communicate journal policies (for example, to authors, readers, peer reviewers)**
- **Review journal policies periodically, particularly with respect to new recommendations from the COPE**
- **Code of Conduct for Editors and the COPE Best Practice Guidelines**
- **Maintain the integrity of the academic record**
- **Assist the parties (for example, institutions, grant funders, governing bodies) responsible for the investigation of suspected research and publication misconduct and, where possible, facilitate in the resolution of these cases**
- **Publish corrections, clarifications, and retractions**
- **Publish content on a timely basis**