

What Are Publishers Doing About Publication Ethics?

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So ... what are publishers doing?

- Advising and assisting editors doing a tough job

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Best Practice Guidelines on Publication Ethics: A Publisher's Perspective

These Best Practice Guidelines on Publication Ethics describe Blackwell Publishing's position on ethical principles of academic publishing and consider factors that may foster ethical behavior. The aims are to encourage discussion, to initiate changes where they are needed, and to provide practical guidance, in the form of Best Practice Statements, to inform these changes.

"This is an excellent document. It addresses both broad ethical issues and practical points that we have all come against throughout editorial work."
 Pádraig Vostanis, Editor, *Child Adolescent Mental Health*

Best Practice Guidelines on Publication Ethics: A Publisher's Perspective

- Promoting ethical publication practices
- Transparency
- Promoting research integrity
- Editorial standards and processes
- Responsible publication practices
- Ownership of ideas and expression
- Blackwell Publishing Best Practice

Blackwell Publishing, the world's leading partner for academic societies, works with over 600 academic societies. We understand the goals and values of these societies in learning, research and professional practice. We recognize the importance of developing the highest ethical standards and we are committed to promoting ethical publication practices across Blackwell journals. This document presents the Blackwell Publishing position on the major ethical principles of academic publishing and considers factors that may foster ethical behavior or create problems. The aims are to encourage discussion, to initiate changes where they are needed, and to provide practical guidance, in the form of Best Practice statements, to inform these changes.

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 Pádraig Vostanis, Editor, *Child Adolescent Mental Health*

"It is impressive. I particularly like the 'Best Practice' sections. I think it will be a valuable resource"
 Bruce Barr, Co-Editor, *Oxidative Stress*

"Covers most of the issues that we normally address and has raised some ideas for improving some of our codes of practice"
 Carol Huxley, Managing Editor, *The Journal of Physiology*

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PUBLISHING ETHICS

The publication of an article in a peer-reviewed journal is an essential building block in the development of a coherent and respected network of knowledge. It is a direct reflection of the quality of the work of the authors and the institutions that support them. Peer-reviewed articles support and embody the scientific method. It is therefore important to agree upon standards of expected ethical behavior for all parties involved in the act of publishing: the author, the journal editor, the peer reviewer, the publisher and the society of society-owned or sponsored journals. More about [Publishing Ethics](#).

<u>Duties of Editors</u>	<u>Duties of Reviewers</u>	<u>Duties of Authors</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Publication decision ▪ Fair play 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Contribution to Editorial Decision ▪ Processes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reporting standards ▪ Data Access and Retention ▪ Academic Integrity

- ### Industry Organisations
- ☞ [Consort](#)
- Standards for randomized trials
 - ☞ [COPE](#)
- Committee on Publication Ethics
 - ☞ [ICMJE](#)
- Uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals
 - ☞ [WAME](#)
- World Association of Medical Editors



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Editor & Society Area

Publish With Us > Editors & Societies: Publish with Us > **Ethics of Publishing**

Guidelines on the Ethics of Journal Publishing

Our policy on Author Rights includes advice on copyright, including Author Rights as these relate to the posting of pre-prints and post-prints, as well as information on our *iOpenAccess* initiative.

The ethical guidelines we describe here are designed to help everyone engaged in the journal publication process, namely, editors, authors, and manuscript reviewers and referees.

We are confident that unambiguous, consistent guidelines will enhance the quality of published research, and we are a

- » Journal Authors
- » Book Authors
- » Reference Work Contributors
- » Editors & Societies: New Journal Idea
- » Editors & Societies: Publish with Us
 - » Editorial Contacts
 - » *iFirst*
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Do things right ...

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Cancer Science

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Original Article

Editor's statement:
Peter James' name was used in this article without his knowledge or permission. He wishes to dissociate himself from this article and any ideas, conclusions or opinions expressed therein.

Biomarker discovery: A proteomic approach for brain cancer profiling
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Abstract

Gliomas in the form of astrocytomas, anaplastic astrocytomas and glioblastomas are the most common brain tumors in humans. Early detection of these cancers is crucial for successful treatment. Proteomic approaches for the discovery of biomarkers as a tumor marker for early detection of gliomas are being investigated. In this study, we have identified a number of proteins

Avoid mistakes ... and bad press



FREE PREVIEW

Financial Ties to Industry Cloud Major Depression Study

BY DAVID ARMSTRONG

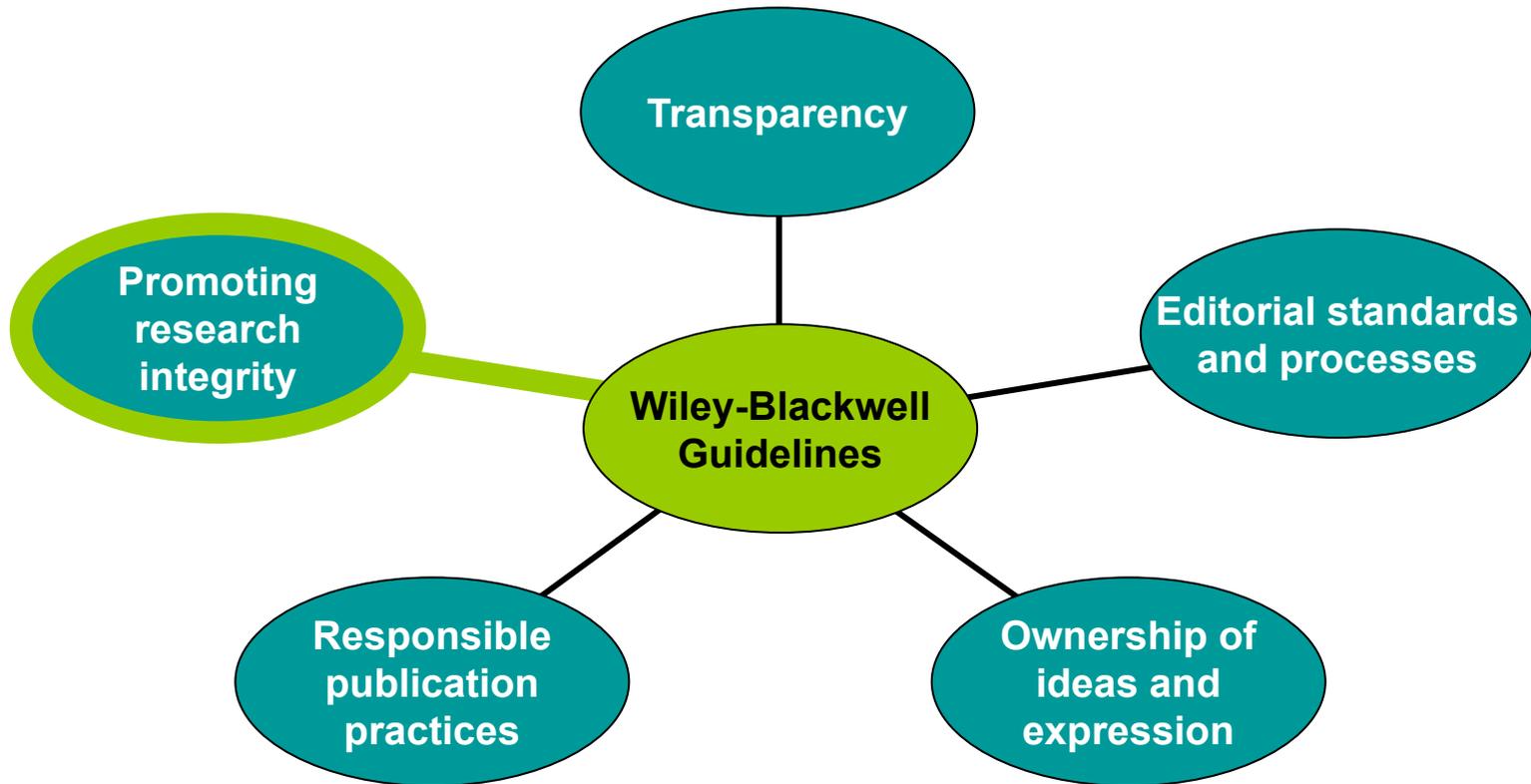
Word Count: 2,901 | Companies Featured in This Article: Eli Lilly, Pfizer, G SmithKline

For pregnant women considering whether to continue taking antidepressant drugs, a study in a February issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association, **or JAMA**, contained a sobering warning: Stopping the medication greatly increases the risk of relapsing into depression.

The study authors -- most of them leading psychiatrists at Massachusetts General Hospital, the University of California Los Angeles and Emory University -- said their results challenged a common assumption that the hormone changes of pregnancy helped protect women from depression. The researchers found that women who stopped taking antidepressants during pregnancy had a 50 percent higher risk of relapsing into depression than those who continued taking them.



So ... what's in the guidelines?



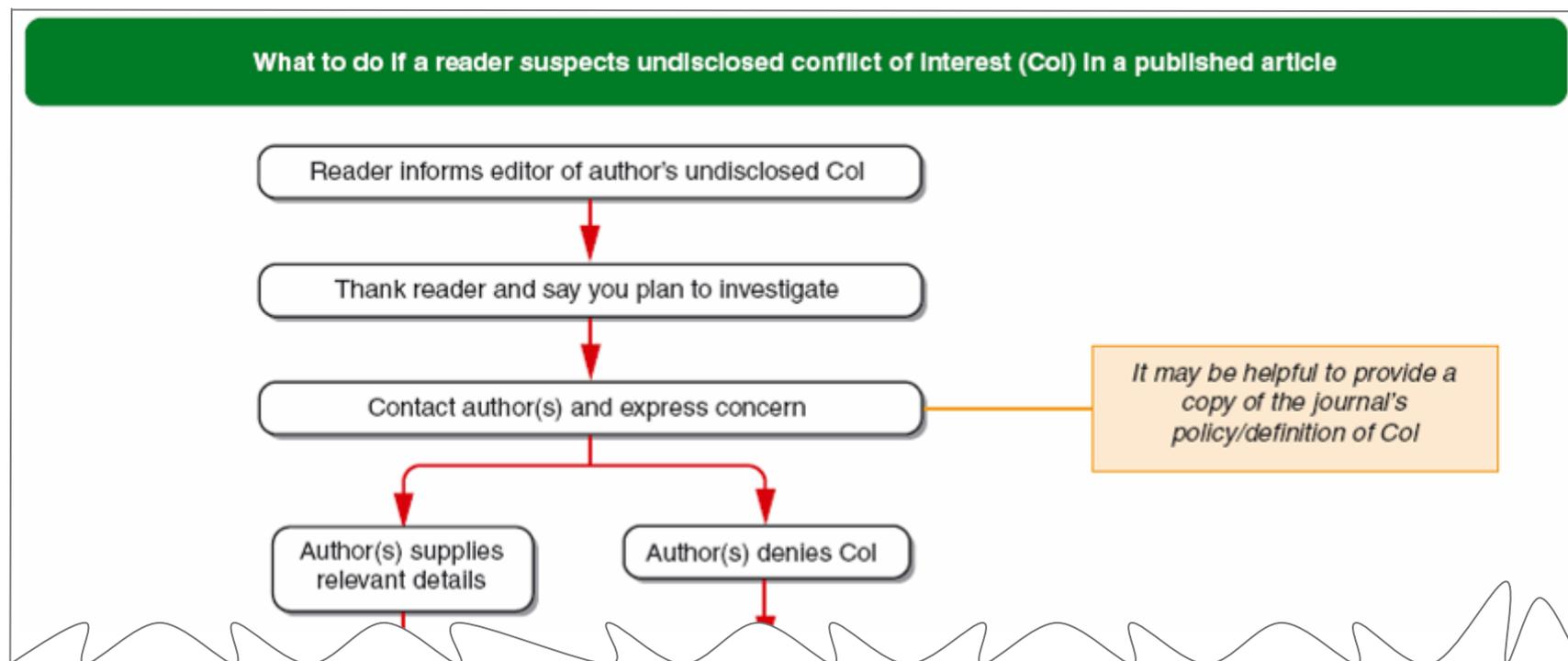
Promoting research integrity

- Create policies that promote ethical research
- Protect the rights of research participants
- Ensure **suspected misconduct** is properly investigated by the appropriate authorities
- **Inform readers** if ethical breaches have occurred



Promoting
research
integrity

More from the guidelines



Thanks COPE

www.publicationethics.org.uk/

The helpdesk



Elsevier

Editors

- Publication decision
- Fair play**
- Confidentiality
- Disclosure and conflicts of interest**
- Vigilance over published record
- Involvement and cooperation in investigations**

Reviewers

- Contribution to editorial decision
- Promptness
- Confidentiality
- Standards of objectivity**
- Acknowledgement of source
- Disclosure and conflicts of interest**

Authors

- Reporting standards**
- Data access and retention
- Originality and plagiarism**
- Multiple, redundant or concurrent publication
- Acknowledgement of sources
- Authorship of the paper
- Hazards and human or animal subjects**
- Disclosure and conflicts of interest**
- Fundamental errors in published works

Taylor & Francis

Editors

- **Unbiased consideration**
- Reasonable speed and efficiency
- Sole responsibility for accept/reject
- Peer review confidential and anonymous
- **Declare conflicts of interest**
- Challenges to authenticity consult T&F and ed board: correction, a statement of retraction, or withdrawal and removal of the article

Reviewers

- **Unbiased consideration**
- Reasonable speed and efficiency
- Quality of the manuscript judged objectively
- Peer review confidential
- **Declare conflicts of interest**
- Referees' judgments must be explained and supported (accompanied by the relevant citation)
- Personal or malicious criticism neither appropriate nor acceptable

Authors

- **Accurate, objective, enough detail to repeat**
- Cite all relevant references
- **Identify hazards**
- **Declare conflicts of interest**
- Avoid fragmenting research and not submit same or similar articles
- No personal criticism
- **'Co-authors'**: significant scientific contribution, and share responsibility and accountability

Outcomes: What do we want?

- **Simply:** guidelines to be used by editors
- Changes in **author guidelines and policy**, reflected in **online submission systems**
- **Survey:** editors' understanding of publication ethics

Positive feedback ... at launch

- ‘...addresses both **broad ethical issues and practical points**’
Panos Vostanis, *Child & Adolescent Mental Health*
- ‘... **a valuable resource**’
Bruce Baum, *Oral Diseases*
- ‘... raised some **ideas for improving**’
Carol Huxley, *The Journal of Physiology*

Some results

- Nader Rifai, *Clinical Chemistry*, **preparing for term as editor**
- Carlo Brugnara, *American Journal of Hematology*, **multiple cases of plagiarism**
- 7 Wiley-Blackwell journals have cited (not including *Am J Hem* or *Clin Chem*)
- 2 journals published by other publishers have cited

Unexpected result

- **Roy Kaufman**, Legal Director, Wiley-Blackwell
- ‘I consult the guidelines at least **once a week** ...
... and **encourage editors** to do the same’
- ‘Great to have procedures to point to in these matters, which tend to be **deeply personal**’

Bigger ... new resources

- Ethical **policy template**
- More **new flowcharts** – coming soon
- **Manuscript Central** templates – coming soon
- **‘10 Key Principles’** – coming soon
- New Book: **Peer Review and Manuscript Management in Scientific Journals**, Irene Hames

Bigger still ...

- **‘Anti-plagiarism’** software: CrossCheck
- Wiley-Blackwell, BMJ, Elsevier, Taylor & Francis ...
- **Verifies originality**



DOI's for scholarly &
professional publications

Survey: sent to >600 editors

- **Experiences and confidence dealing with ...**
- Misconduct: FFP
- Research ethics
- Conflicts of interest (author, reviewer)
- Funder acknowledgement
- Ghosts and guests
- Peer reviewer misconduct
- Duplicate or redundant publication



**>200
replies**

On one hand ... and on the other

- **Concern #1:** Unacceptable ethical procedures reported for recruitment of research participants. Is this ignorance of appropriate reporting, or of fundamentals of research ethics?
- **Concern #2:** Ethics rules in medical research are excessive and prevent interesting studies. The main 'ethics' problem is the rules themselves.

So ... what are publishers doing?

- Advising and assisting editors doing a tough job

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