

Supplemental Tables

Table S1. Guidelines from different publishers and editorial organizations regarding the potential conflicts of interest between editor and authors. Adapted and updated from Teixeira de Silva et al. 2019. For a more comprehensive list we refer to the links provided below for each publisher. All were accessed between July and September 2024.

Publisher	Guidelines on conflict of interests
ACS Publications	<p>Editorial responsibility and authority for any manuscript authored by an editor and submitted to the editor’s journal should be delegated to some other qualified person, such as another editor of that journal or a member of its Editorial Advisory Board. Editors should also delegate manuscripts submitted by recent graduates (within at least the prior 5 years), by collaborators, or by colleagues at the same institution to some other qualified person, such as another editor of that journal or a member of its Editorial Advisory Board. Editorial consideration of such manuscripts in any way or form would constitute a conflict of interest, and is therefore improper.</p> <p><i>And</i></p> <p>Unpublished information, arguments, or interpretations disclosed in a submitted manuscript should not be used in an editor’s own research except with the consent of the author. However, if such information indicates that some of the editor’s own research is unlikely to be profitable, the editor could ethically discontinue the work. When a manuscript is so closely related to the current or past research of an editor as to create a conflict of interest, the editor should arrange for some other qualified person to take editorial responsibility for that manuscript. In some cases, it may be appropriate to tell an author about the editor’s research and plans in that area.</p>
BMJ Group	<p>BMJ is committed to ensuring the independence and integrity of our content. As such, prior to appointment, all of our Editors are required to disclose any conflicts of interest in accordance with the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors uniform declaration of competing interests. For BMJ-appointed Editors all declarations of interest are published on the editorial board page of</p>

	<p>the relevant journal. We do not not generally publish the declarations of interest forms for our Associate Editors; however, all Associate Editors must agree and adhere to BMJ’s competing interests policy.</p>
Bentham	<p>Editors must not review submitted manuscripts if they have any personal, professional or financial involvement/conflict of interest with the authors of the manuscript. Every participant involved in the peer review process, including editorial board members, reviewers, and editors, must declare any potential conflicts of interest to ensure a transparent and unbiased review activity.</p> <p>Editors-in-Chief or Editors who are responsible for the initial and final decision should recuse themselves to review or take decisions on any manuscript that is written by authors affiliated to the same institute as of editor, or if they have been a family member, competitor, collaborator, or have published any manuscript in last 3 years with the authors associated with the manuscript. They can however nominate someone else on the Board who could provide a neutral opinion on the manuscript.</p> <p>The Editorial office recommends editors to follow COPE and WAME guidelines to process such manuscripts which involves their personal relationship.</p>
De Gruyter	<p>A “conflict of interest”, or “competing interest” are situations that are, or could be perceived to interfere with the objective presentation, review or publication of a piece of work</p> <p>All authors, reviewers and editors must declare any existing or potential competing interests.</p> <p>Authors should include a statement and should list all potential interests or, if appropriate, should clearly state that there are none.</p>
Elife	<p>ICMJE [International Committee of Medical Journal Editors] states that the “potential for conflict of interest and bias [competing interests] exists when professional judgment concerning a primary interest (such as patients' welfare or the validity of research) may be influenced by a secondary interest (such as financial gain)”. Authors, reviewers, and editors are all required to declare any competing</p>

	interests that might be perceived to interfere with the objectivity of the presentation or handling of the work.
Elsevier	<p>Conflict of interest exists when an author (or the author's institution), reviewer, or editor has financial or personal relationships that inappropriately influence (bias) his or her actions (such relationships are also known as "dual commitments", "competing interests", or "competing loyalties").</p> <p><i>And</i></p> <p>All participants in the peer review and publication process must disclose all relationships that could be viewed as presenting a potential conflict of interest. Disclosure of these relationships is also important in connection with editorials and review articles, because it can be more difficult to detect bias in these types of publications than in reports of original research.</p>
Emerald	All conflicts of interest should be declared by the author, editor or reviewer.
F1000	There is no Editor (or Editor-in-Chief) to make a decision on whether to accept or reject the article, or to oversee the peer-review process. F1000Research has an Advisory Board comprising a large group of leading subject experts; they provide strategic input, advise occasionally on issues arising with specific articles, and some members of the board also act as invited reviewers.
Frontiers	<p>Handling editors and reviewers will be asked to consider the following potential conflicts of interest before accepting any editing or review assignment.</p> <p><i>Family, collaborations, affiliations and financial potential conflicts of interest (see Table 1 in the main text and www.frontiersin.org/guidelines/policies-and-publication-ethics for specifics).</i></p>
IEEE	Conflicts of interest, whether actual, perceived, or potential, must be avoided. IEEE defines a conflict of interest as any situation, transaction, or relationship in which someone's decisions or actions could materially affect that individual's professional, personal, financial, or business concerns. A potential conflict of interest occurs

	when an individual might have a conflict of interest based on his or her responsibility to IEEE
Inderscience	<p>Editors are not involved in decisions about papers they have written themselves, or which have been written by family members or colleagues at the same institution. The peer review and final decision on such submissions is handled independently of the relevant Editor by Inderscience's own Editorial Office. Reviewers are provided with on-screen guidelines on how to approach the review process in an ethical and non-biased manner.</p> <p>Guest editors are required to complete a Declaration of Conflicts of Interest on appointment and must communicate any potential editorial conflicts of interest to the Editor in Chief. In cases of conflict, the guest editors are removed from the peer review process to avoid conflict of interest and to protect the integrity of the peer review process.</p>
Karger	Editors and reviewers are asked to declare any relationship that could be perceived as a competing interest with respect to any manuscript they are asked to handle.
Mary Ann Liebert Inc.	<i>No specific information on conflicts of interest involving editors. They do refer to the COPE guidelines.</i>
MDPI	<p>We support transparency, and all those involved in the peer-review process must carefully consider and declare any conflicts of interest when participating in the review, decision-making process, and publication of an article. All associations that interfere with, or could be potentially perceived as interfering with, the full and objective assessment, peer review and decision-making process must be declared.</p> <p>Even if a Reviewer or Editor believes that the existence of a conflict of interest, or several conflicts of interest, will not impact the peer review or decision-making process, the Reviewer or Editor should remove themselves from the process to avoid the perception of a conflict of interest and to protect the integrity of the peer-review process.</p>
Open Research EU	<i>There is no Editor (or Editor-in-Chief) to make a decision on whether to accept or reject the article, or to oversee the peer-review process.</i>

Oxford Univeristy Publishing	All Editors have submitted a Conflict of Interest statement to the publisher or society. Editors would not handle the review of a manuscript if there was a potential Conflict of Interest, and instead would pass it on to another editorial colleague.
PeerJ	<i>PeerJ</i> requires that all parties involved in a publication (i.e. the authors, reviewers and academic editors) should transparently declare any potential Competing Interests (also known as Conflicts of Interest). The disclosure of a Competing Interest does not necessarily mean that there is an issue to be addressed; it simply ensures that all parties are appropriately informed of any relevant considerations while they work on the submission.
PLOS	Everyone involved in the peer review process, including authors, editors and reviewers, and readers, must declare all potentially competing interests that occurred within 5 years of conducting the research under consideration, or preparing the article for publication. Interests outside the 5-year time frame must also be declared if they could reasonably be perceived as competing according to the definition above
Qeios	<i>Qeios does not work with handling editors in order to remove editorial bias.</i>
Sage	All Editors are required to declare any conflicts of interest that may impact the peer review and decision-making process. If a conflict arises, an alternative member of the Editorial board must be appointed and the Editor with the conflict must recuse themselves from the decision-making process. These conflicts include financial and non-financial interests listed above.
SCIRP	Editors entrusted with rendering final decisions concerning manuscripts are obligated to excuse themselves from editorial decisions in situations where conflicts of interest or relationships that have the potential to pose conflicts arise related to articles that are under consideration. Other members of the editorial team who participate in editorial decisions are obliged to provide editors with a comprehensive account of their current financial interests or other conflicts that may have an impact on editorial judgments, and must recuse themselves from any decisions in which a conflict of interest

	exists. Under no circumstances should editorial staff exploit information gained through involvement with manuscripts for personal gain. It is also essential for editors to publish regular disclosure statements regarding potential conflicts of interests that may arise from their own and the journal staff's commitments. Guest editors are expected to abide by the same protocols.
Springer/Nature	Editorial Board Members, Guest Editors and Editors are required to declare any competing interests and may be excluded from the peer review process if a competing interest exists. In addition, they should exclude themselves from handling manuscripts in cases where there is a competing interest.
Taylor and Francis	<i>No specific information given about conflicts of interests between editor and authors. They do refer to COPE</i>
Wiley	Editors should disclose any potential interests, both financial and non-financial, that might appear to affect their ability to objectively oversee peer review or undertake decision-making on a given submission. And A conflict of interest may also be present in situations where an Editor and submitting author have recently performed research together, sit in the same academic department, or have recently co-authored a research article. Editors should recuse themselves from handling manuscripts or adjudicating on specific integrity or ethic concerns where they have any potential or perceived conflicts of interest that may influence their ability to make unbiased editorial decisions or manage an unbiased peer-review process.
Wolters Kluwer	<i>No specific attention for conflicts of interest regarding editors. They do refer to COPE and ICMJE</i>
Editorial organizations	
COPE	See also main text. COPE, does not have a document on COIs specifically for editors, but refers to the Ethical guidelines for peer reviewers mentioning that these should also be applied to handling editors. COPE mentions the following to be applicable for editors as well: 'Competing interests may be personal, financial, intellectual, professional, political or religious in nature. If you are currently employed at the same institution as any of the authors or have been

	<p>recent (eg, within the past 3 years) mentors, mentees, close collaborators or joint grant holders, you should not agree to review.</p>
ICMJE	<p>Editors who make final decisions about manuscripts should recuse themselves from editorial decisions if they have relationships or activities that pose potential conflicts related to articles under consideration. Other editorial staff members who participate in editorial decisions must provide editors with a current description of their relationships or activities (as they might relate to editorial judgments) and recuse themselves from any decisions in which an interest that poses a potential conflict exists. Editorial staff must not use information gained through working with manuscripts for private gain. Editors should regularly publish their own disclosure statements and those of their journal staff. Guest editors should follow these same procedures.</p> <p>Journals should take extra precautions and have a stated policy for evaluation of manuscripts submitted by individuals involved in editorial decisions. Further guidance is available from COPE and WAME.</p>
WAME	<p>Editors should not make any editorial decisions or be involved in the editorial process if they have or a close family member has a COI (financial or otherwise) in a particular manuscript submitted to their journal. For example, if editors have political/religious COI or personal COI with respect to the authors or their work, the editors should remove themselves from the decision-making process. An editor may also be in a COI if a manuscript is submitted from their own academic department or from their institution (if it is small); in such situations, they should have explicit policies, made in advance, for how to manage it. When editors submit their own work to their journal, a colleague in the editorial office should manage the manuscript and the editor/author should recuse himself or herself from discussion and decisions about it. Some journals list editors' competing interests on their website but this is not a standard practice. Readers should refer to the WAME Policy on the Relationship Between Journal Editors-in-chief and Owners for additional comment about COI as it relates to editors.</p>

BMJ Group: <https://authors.bmj.com/policies/editor-roles-responsibilities/>

Bentham: www.eurekaselect.com/pages/conflict-of-interest#:~:text=Editors%20must%20not%20review%20submitted,the%20authors%20of%20the%20manuscript

De Gruyter: www.degruyter.com/publishing/for-authors/for-journal-authors/publishing-ethics#:~:text=Conflicts%20of%20interest%20and%20competing%20interests&text=A%20%20authors%20C%20reviewers%20and%20editors,state%20that%20there%20are%20none

Elife: https://submit.elifesciences.org/html/elifesciences_author_instructions.html#policies

Elsevier: www.elsevier.com/editor/perk/undisclosed-conflicts-of-interest#

Emerald: www.emeraldgrouppublishing.com/archived/authors/writing/best_practice_guide.htm#:~:text=If%20a%20conflict%20of%20interest,a%20suspected%20conflict%20of%20interest

F1000: <https://f1000research.com/for-referees/guidelines> &
<https://f1000research.com/about>

Frontiers: www.frontiersin.org/guidelines/policies-and-publication-ethics

IEEE: <https://journals.ieeeauthorcenter.ieee.org/become-an-ieee-journal-author/publishing-ethics/guidelines-and-policies/submission-and-peer-review-policies/#conflict-interest>

Inderscience: www.inderscience.com/mobile/ingeneral/publishing-ethics-statement

Karger: <https://karger.com/pages/peer-review#conflict-of-interest>

Mary Ann Liebert Inc.: <https://home.liebertpub.com/authors/for-reviewers/198#:~:text=Conflicts%20of%20Interest%3A%20If%20you,2%2D3%20weeks%20to%20review>

MDPI: www.mdpi.com/ethics#_bookmark22

Open Research EU: <https://open-research-europe.ec.europa.eu/about>

Oxford University Publishing (OUP):

https://academic.oup.com/pages/authoring/journals/preparing_your_manuscript/conflicts_of_interest

PeerJ: <https://peerj.com/about/policies-and-procedures>

PLOS: <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/s/competing-interests>

Qeios: www.qeios.com/publishing-policy

Sage: [https://uk.sagepub.com/en-gb/eur/publication-ethics-and-research-integrity-policy-guidelines-for-](https://uk.sagepub.com/en-gb/eur/publication-ethics-and-research-integrity-policy-guidelines-for-authors#:~:text=All%20Sage%20editorial%20staff%20are,other%20submissions%20within%20the%20journal)

[authors#:~:text=All%20Sage%20editorial%20staff%20are,other%20submissions%20within%20the%20journal](https://uk.sagepub.com/en-gb/eur/publication-ethics-and-research-integrity-policy-guidelines-for-authors#:~:text=All%20Sage%20editorial%20staff%20are,other%20submissions%20within%20the%20journal)

SCIRP: www.scirp.org/aboutus/publicationethics

Springer/Nature: www.springer.com/gp/editorial-policies/competing-interests-policy#:~:text=Editorial%20Board%20Members%2C%20Guest%20Editors%20and%20Editors%20are%20required%20to,there%20is%20a%20competing%20interest

Taylor and Francis: https://editorresources.taylorandfrancis.com/publishing-ethics-for-editors/?_gl=1*5ujfnf*_ga*MTgxMTc1NDMwOS4xNzIxNDEyMzYx*_ga_P72E44E6LY*MTcyMTU2ODM3Ny4yLjEuMTcyMTU2ODQyOS4wLjAuMA..*_gcl_au*MTc2NjE0MjgwOC4xNzIxNDEyMzYx*_ga_0HYE8YG0M6*MTcyMTU2ODM3Ny4yLjEuMTcyMTU2ODQyOS44LjAuMA..&_ga=2.15492223.810134476.1721568378-1811754309.1721412361

Wiley: www.wiley.com/en-us/network/publishing/research-publishing/editors/editor-code-of-conduct#:~:text=A%20conflict%20of%20interest%20may,co%2Dauthored%20a%20research%20article.

Wolters Kluwer: <https://wkauthorservices.editage.com/aboutus/wolters-kluwer-publishing-ethics.html>

COPE: <https://publicationethics.org/guidance/case/conflicts-interest-between-authors-and-editors>

ICMJE: <https://icmje.org/recommendations/browse/roles-and-responsibilities/author-responsibilities--conflicts-of-interest.html>

WAME: <https://wame.org/conflict-of-interest-in-peer-reviewed-medical-journal>

Table S2: Thirty-three papers recently retracted for conflicts of interest between the editor and author(s).

DOI	Author was also editor	Also reviewer COIs	Author statement
https://doi.org/10.1016/j.sajb.2020.07.018	Yes	No	No statement from authors included
https://doi.org/10.1016/j.sajb.2022.04.022	Yes	No	No statement from authors included
https://doi.org/10.1016/j.sajb.2022.04.043	Yes	No	The corresponding author claimed that they were unaware that Dr. Vijay Kumar was involved in the peer-review process for the paper, and do not agree with the retraction.

https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2020.124781	Yes	No	No statement from authors included
https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envres.2024.120243	Yes	No	Dr. Gollakota Anjani Ravi Kiran, on behalf of all authors, does not agree with the retraction and disputes the grounds for it.
https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chemosphere.2019.03.035		Yes	The authors disagree with this retraction and dispute the grounds for it.
https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chemosphere.2019.125331		No	The authors disagree with this retraction and dispute the grounds for it.
https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chemosphere.2021.131276		Yes	The authors disagree with this retraction

			and dispute the grounds for it.
https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chemosphere.2021.131856		Yes	The authors have not responded to this retraction.
https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chemosphere.2021.132692		Yes	The authors have not responded to this retraction.
https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chemosphere.2021.132923		Yes	The authors disagree with this retraction and dispute the grounds for it.
https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chemosphere.2021.133246		Yes	The authors disagree with this retraction and dispute the grounds for it.
https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chemosphere.2021.133477		Yes	The authors disagree with this retraction and dispute

			the grounds for it.
https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chemosphere.2022.133596		Yes	The authors disagree with this retraction and dispute the grounds for it.
https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chemosphere.2022.134701		Yes	The authors disagree with this retraction and dispute the grounds for it.
https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chemosphere.2022.134754		Yes	The authors disagree with this retraction and dispute the grounds for it.
https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chemosphere.2022.134792		Yes	The authors disagree with this retraction and dispute the grounds for it.
https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chemosphere.2022.135074		Yes	The authors disagree with

			this retraction and dispute the grounds for it.
https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chemosphere.2022.135079		Yes	The authors disagree with this retraction and dispute the grounds for it.
https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chemosphere.2022.135622		Yes	The authors disagree with this retraction and dispute the grounds for it.
https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chemosphere.2022.135625		Yes	The authors disagree with this retraction and dispute the grounds for it.
https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chemosphere.2022.135626		Yes	The authors disagree with this retraction and dispute the grounds for it.

https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chemosphere.2022.135738		Yes	1 author agreed, 2 acknowledged the retractions, other authors did not reply to the publisher
https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chemosphere.2022.135774		No	The authors disagree with this retraction and dispute the grounds for it.
https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chemosphere.2022.136020		Yes	The authors disagree with this retraction and dispute the grounds for it.
https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chemosphere.2022.136528		No	The authors disagree with this retraction and dispute the grounds for it.

https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chemosphere.2023.138152		Yes	The authors disagree with this retraction and dispute the grounds for it.
https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chemosphere.2023.138180		Yes	The authors disagree with this retraction and dispute the grounds for it.
https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chemosphere.2023.138498		Yes	The authors disagree with this retraction and dispute the grounds for it.
https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chemosphere.2023.138635		No	The authors disagree with this retraction and dispute the grounds for it.

https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chemosphere.2023.139630		Yes	The authors disagree with this retraction and dispute the grounds for it.
https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chemosphere.2022.136117		Yes	Authors did not respond to the retraction
https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chemosphere.2023.138243		Yes	The authors disagree with this retraction and dispute the grounds for it.