Ethical Dissemination of Scientific Information

This month in our series, we highlight a central aspect of research: **the ethical dissemination of scientific information.**

With the widespread availability of AI resources, education of researchers on responsible information sharing has become especially important. AI tools offer valuable support for scientists in summarizing and analyzing data, but must be used **ethically and responsibly**.

General Best Practices

Transparency Is Fundamental:
Whenever AI is involved in manuscript preparation, review, or publication, full disclosure protects the integrity of the scholarly record.

Safeguard confidential information:
Manuscripts under review are considered confidential, and the use of AI tools during the review process must strictly respect this confidentiality.

Human Oversight Required:
AI tools should support, not replace, human judgment. Researchers, editors, and reviewers are ultimately responsible for the ethical presentation of research.

Stay Updated:
Continuously review and update institutional policies as AI technologies evolve, consulting international guidelines and publisher statements on ethical AI use.

Alongside the ethical use of AI, other principles from the **AADOCR/IADR Code of Ethics** for research dissemination include:

For Authors
- Honest Authorship: Follow established authorship guidelines and ensure all authors approve the submission.
- Present Original Work: Submit manuscripts that are original and openly disclose any prior abstract presentations.
- Respect Privacy: Obtain written permission for clinical images and ensure that patient identities are protected.
- Credit Where Due: Clearly acknowledge all sources of funding.
- Uphold Academic Ethics: Strictly avoid data manipulation, plagiarism, self-plagiarism, and ghostwriting.

For Peer Reviewers
- Protect Confidentiality: Treat all manuscripts as confidential; do not share or use unpublished findings.
- Disclose Conflicts: Immediately inform editors of any conflicts of interest that may affect objectivity.
- Report Misconduct: Confidentially notify editors about any suspected scientific misconduct.
- Review with Integrity: Follow ethical guidelines for unbiased, thorough peer review.

For Editors & Editorial Boards
- Commit to Integrity: Develop and openly share policies to promote editorial independence, transparency, and minimize scientific misconduct.
- Follow the Experts: Align policies with internationally recognized guidelines (like COPE, CSE, WAME, and others).
- Fair Manuscript Decisions: Make acceptance choices based on innovation and relevance, not just on positive results.
- Manage Conflicts: Establish clear processes for managing conflicts of interest.
- Embrace Transparency: Support the use of standardized reporting guidelines and clarify policies about preprint submissions.

To learn more, please visit the [IADR/AADOCR Code of Ethics](#) and review its recommendations for responsible research dissemination.

This summary was developed with assistance from an AI language model (U-M GPT, powered by OpenAI's GPT-4.1), which was used to clarify, structure, and paraphrase source material. All content was reviewed and verified by the author for accuracy and ethical compliance, in accordance with the AADOCR/IADR Code of Ethics.

Publication Ethics

Authors

Honest authorship

Original work

Acknowledge funding

No data manipulation or plagiarism

Peer reviewers

Confidentiality

Disclose conflicts

Report suspected misconduct

Unbiased, thorough review

Editors & editorial boards

Editorial independence

Follow Guidelines (COPE, CSE, WAME)

Fair decisions Manage conflicts of interest

Transparent reporting & preprints

Infographic concept developed with assistance from Perplexity AI (December 2025).