

Affirming the editorial independence of the journal and its editorial decision-making process is crucial for upholding integrity, transparency, and scholarly rigor. Editorial independence ensures that decisions regarding manuscript evaluation, peer review, and publication are made impartially, based on academic merit, scientific validity, and ethical considerations, free from undue influence or external pressures. Here's how the journal affirms its editorial independence:

- 1. Editorial Autonomy:** The journal operates with editorial autonomy, empowering editors-in-chief, associate editors, and editorial board members to make independent decisions regarding manuscript evaluation, peer review, and publication. Editorial decisions are guided by scholarly expertise, ethical principles, and adherence to journal policies and standards.
- 2. Conflict of Interest Policies:** The journal maintains robust conflict of interest policies and procedures for editors, reviewers, and editorial staff to ensure transparency, integrity, and impartiality in editorial decision-making. Editors and reviewers are required to disclose any potential conflicts of interest that may influence their evaluations or decisions and take appropriate actions to mitigate biases or undue influence.
- 3. Peer Review Process:** The journal employs a rigorous peer review process, in which manuscripts undergo thorough evaluation by independent experts in the field. Peer reviewers are selected based on their expertise, qualifications, and impartiality, ensuring objective and constructive feedback on manuscript submissions.
- 4. Transparent Policies and Guidelines:** The journal provides clear and transparent policies, guidelines, and criteria for manuscript submission, peer review, and editorial decision-making. Authors, reviewers, and readers have access to detailed information on journal policies, ethical standards, and publication practices, promoting accountability and trust in the editorial process.
- 5. Editorial Oversight and Governance:** The journal's editorial operations are overseen by an editorial board comprising respected scholars, researchers, and practitioners in the field. Editorial board members provide guidance, expertise, and oversight to ensure adherence to journal policies, ethical standards, and best practices in scholarly publishing.
- 6. Adherence to Best Practices:** The journal adheres to best practices and ethical guidelines established by relevant professional organizations, such as the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) and the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE). By following established standards and guidelines, the journal upholds the highest ethical and editorial standards in scholarly publishing.

By affirming its editorial independence and commitment to ethical and transparent editorial practices, the journal maintains the trust and confidence of authors, reviewers, readers, and the broader research community. Editorial independence ensures that scholarly publishing decisions are driven by academic merit, scientific integrity, and the advancement of knowledge in the field.