

The journal implements comprehensive policies and procedures for managing conflicts of interest, ensuring transparency, integrity, and impartiality in the editorial and publishing processes. Here's an outline of the policies and procedures for managing conflicts of interest, including disclosure requirements and steps taken to mitigate bias or influence:

## 1. Disclosure Requirements:

- Authors, reviewers, and editorial staff are required to disclose any potential conflicts of interest related to their research, affiliations, funding sources, or personal relationships.
- Authors must provide detailed disclosures of financial interests, affiliations, funding sources, and any other potential conflicts of interest at the time of manuscript submission.
- Reviewers and editorial staff are also required to disclose any conflicts of interest that may compromise their ability to provide unbiased evaluations or editorial decisions.

## 2. Transparent Disclosure:

- The journal emphasizes transparent disclosure of conflicts of interest to maintain credibility and trust in the editorial process.
- Disclosures of potential conflicts of interest are prominently displayed in published articles, reviewer reports, and editorial communications, ensuring transparency and accountability to readers, authors, and the research community.

## 3. Editorial Review and Assessment:

- Editors carefully review and assess disclosed conflicts of interest to determine their potential impact on editorial decisions or manuscript evaluations.
- Editors consider the nature, severity, and relevance of conflicts of interest and may seek additional information or clarification from authors, reviewers, or editorial staff as needed.

## 4. Mitigation Strategies:

- Various strategies are employed to mitigate bias or undue influence resulting from conflicts of interest:
  - **Recusal:** Editors, reviewers, or editorial staff with significant conflicts of interest may recuse themselves from handling or participating in editorial decisions related to manuscripts in which they have conflicts.
  - **Independent Review:** In cases where conflicts of interest are identified among potential reviewers or editorial staff, alternative reviewers or editors may be appointed to ensure impartiality and objectivity in manuscript evaluation.
  - **Editorial Oversight:** Editors-in-chief and editorial boards oversee the management of conflicts of interest, providing guidance, oversight, and support to ensure compliance with established policies and procedures.
  - **Editorial Statements:** The journal may include editorial statements or disclosures in published articles to transparently communicate any identified conflicts of interest and the steps taken to address them.

## 5. Continuous Monitoring and Improvement:

- Continuous monitoring and evaluation of conflict of interest policies and procedures are conducted to identify areas for improvement and ensure effectiveness.
- Feedback from authors, reviewers, and editorial staff is solicited and considered to enhance the transparency, fairness, and integrity of conflict of interest management practices.

By implementing robust policies and procedures for managing conflicts of interest, the journal upholds the highest standards of editorial integrity, impartiality, and ethical conduct. Transparent disclosure, thorough review, and effective mitigation strategies ensure that conflicts of interest do not compromise the credibility or objectivity of published research in the journal.