

## **Publishing Policies**

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### **Information about BJD's Publishing Policies :**

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When an article is published OnlineFirst but not yet published in an issue, limited corrections may be made at the discretion of the journal and publisher.

### **Declaration of Conflicting Interests Policy**

BJD requires that all authors disclose any potential sources of conflict of interest. Editors may use information disclosed in conflict-of-interest statements as a basis for editorial decisions.

For all manuscript submissions, regardless of article type, authors should include conflict-of-interest statements in both the comments to the editors at the time of submission and within the Acknowledgments section of the manuscript itself. If authors have no relevant conflicts of interest to disclose, this should also be declared. It is the responsibility of the corresponding author to review this policy with all authors and collectively to disclose with the submission ALL pertinent commercial and other relationships.

Examples of potential conflict of interest include:

- Employment, membership on the board of directors, or any fiduciary relationship with a third-party entity engaged in the development, manufacture, or sale of pharmaceutical or medical devices, supplies, or information;
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- Receipt of payment or honoraria for author contributions or author designation; and
- Any other relationships that readers could perceive to have influenced, or that give the appearance of potentially influencing, the content of the submitted work.

If the study was sponsored by a third party, authors should describe the role of the study sponsor in study design; collection, analysis, and interpretation of data; writing the report; and the decision to submit the report for publication. If the supporting source had no such involvement, the authors should so state.

### **Funding Acknowledgements**

All research articles should have a funding acknowledgement statement included in the manuscript in the form of a sentence under a separate heading entitled 'Funding' directly after your Acknowledgements and Declaration of Conflicting Interests, if applicable, and prior to any Notes and your References. The funding agency should be written out in full, followed by the grant number in square brackets, see following example :

The author(s) disclosed receipt of the following financial support for the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article: This work was supported by the Medical Research Council [grant number xxx].

### **Commentaries, Responses and Rejoinders**

BJD allows short commentaries on published articles and author responses (or rebuttals). These are generally limited to one direct commentary on an article published in the journal, an author response to the commentary, and a rejoinder by the commentator, all of which are subject to peer review unless otherwise stated in the journal's manuscript submission guidelines. Such contributions may have a restricted word count. Please view the journal's submission guidelines for more information.

For example: a commentary on a published article is submitted to the journal, subject to peer review; the commentary is shared with the authors who are invited to submit a response, subject to peer review; the author response may be shared with the commentator, who is invited to submit a rejoinder, subject to peer review; the rejoinder is shared with the authors of the published article. If

accepted for publication, the commentary, author response and rejoinder are published simultaneously in the journal and no further correspondence is considered for publication.

Scientific misconduct, expressions of concern and retraction

BJD adopts the recommended handling of allegations of misconduct, expressions of concern and retraction as stated by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors. They state:

Scientific misconduct in research and non-research publications includes but is not necessarily limited to data fabrication; data falsification including deceptive manipulation of images; purposeful failure to disclose relationships and activities; and plagiarism. Some people consider failure to publish the results of clinical trials and other human studies a form of scientific misconduct. While each of these practices is problematic, they are not equivalent. Each situation requires individual assessment by relevant stakeholders. When scientific misconduct is alleged, or concerns are otherwise raised about the conduct or integrity of work described in submitted or published papers, the editor of BJD will initiate appropriate procedures as outlined by the Committee of Publication Ethics (COPE) and where appropriate inform the institutions and funders. The editor of BJD may choose to publish an expression of concern pending the outcomes of those procedures. If the procedures involve an investigation at the authors' institution, the editor will seek to discover the outcome of that investigation, notify readers of the outcome where appropriate, and, if the investigation proves scientific misconduct, publish a retraction of the article. There may be circumstances in which no misconduct is proven, but an exchange of letters to the editor may be published to highlight matters of debate to readers.

Expressions of concern and retractions will not simply be published as a letter to the editor. Rather, they will be prominently labelled, appear on an electronic or numbered print page that is included in an electronic or a print Table of Contents to ensure proper indexing, and include in their heading the title of the original article. Online, the retraction and original article will be linked in both directions and the retracted article should be clearly labelled as retracted in all its forms (Abstract, full text, PDF). Ideally, the authors of the retraction should be the same as those of the article, but if they are unwilling or unable the editor may under certain circumstances accept retractions by other responsible persons, or the editor may be the sole author of the retraction or expression of concern. The text of the retraction will explain why the article is being retracted and include a complete citation reference to that article. Retracted articles should remain in the public domain and be clearly labelled as retracted.

The validity of previous work by the author of a fraudulent paper cannot be assumed. The editor may ask the author's institution to assure them of the validity of other work published in their journals, or they may retract it. If this is not done, editors may choose to publish an announcement expressing concern that the validity of previously published work is uncertain.

The integrity of research may also be compromised by inappropriate methodology that could lead to retraction. The COPD Flowcharts (<https://publicationethics.org/guidance/Flowcharts>) provide additional information and guidance on the processes that will be undertaken to avoid referencing retracted articles.

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