

PUBLISHING ETHICS: Journal of Family Strengths

INTRODUCTION

The Journal of Family Strengths (JFS), a peer-reviewed, electronic Open Access journal, adheres to ethical scholarly publishing principles and practices. Scientific progress is only possible when inquiry is conducted with integrity and research results can be trusted. Double-blind peer review forms the foundation of scholarly certification of results and ensures that the articles in the journal are of the highest quality. To ensure that editors, reviewers, and authors are guided by the highest ethical standards, the editors of JFS request that all participants adhere to the following principles.

EDITORS

JFS editors have ethical responsibilities toward authors, peer reviewers, and the public. Editors ultimately are accountable for everything that appears in the journals. They strive to meet the needs of readers and authors. Their goal is to constantly improve the journal. They are committed to ensuring that authors and peer reviewers receive the information and material required to conduct peer reviews, accept or reject articles, and publish journal editions efficiently and on time. To do this, they establish clear policies and procedures for authors and peer reviewers that

- Identify and document all conflicts of interest (author, peer reviewer, and editor)
- Protect the absolute confidentiality of every author's work and research data
- Ensure that the peer review and editorial decision-making process is impartial, fair, and timely
- Identify and prominently publish any corrections, errors, and integrity concerns about article content
- Treat all parties with fairness, courtesy, objectivity, honesty, and transparency
- Maintain the integrity of the scientific and academic record

JFS editors adhere to the editorial standards laid out by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE at www.icmje.org), The Council of Science Editors (CSE at www.CouncilScienceEditors.org), and the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE at www.publicationethics.org). In case of scientific fraud, the COPE procedures for publishing a formal retraction and notifying all concerned institutions will be followed.

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JFS's peer review process is double blind; neither reviewers nor authors are identified to each other. Reviewers volunteer their time and expertise. Their expert, unbiased, critical assessment of an article can result in enhancements that lead to publication. Their judgment of scientific merit protects the integrity of the scientific and academic record and the reputation of the journals for articles of the highest quality. To do this, reviewers adhere to ethical policies and procedures that

- Identify any personal or professional conflicts of interest and recuse themselves appropriately from reviewing an article where such exist
- Provide written, unbiased, and timely feedback about the scholarly merit and scientific value of the work
- Ensure that readers will be able to judge the scientific merit of the study design and replicate the work if desired
- Ensure that the article contains appropriate citations of relevant work by other authors
- Maintain strict confidentiality about the article details, author, and any data throughout the review process
- Alert the editor to any ethical concerns about violation of norms for the treatment of human and animal subjects, similarities between the reviewed material and previously published material, study methodologies, statistical analyses, or any other issues that might lead to the compromise of the ethics and integrity of the journals

Engaged in the work of scientific inquiry themselves, the journal's reviewers recognize that material submitted to them for review is a privileged communication. Reviewers guard the confidentiality of the author's identity and work, conducting constructive reviews that document both positive and negative aspects of the work with respect for the author's intellectual independence. No reviewer shall use any content for any purpose not related to the peer review process.

AUTHORS

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The journal editors wish to highlight certain principles below that if violated will result in an article being refused or retracted:

- Conflicts of Interest

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- Confidentiality and Privacy

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Journal editors may request a copy of the IRB determination letter or any relevant NIH forms during the manuscript review process.

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- Falsification: manipulating research materials, equipment, or processes, or changing or omitting data or results such that the research is not accurately represented in the research record – Plagiarism: appropriating another person’s ideas, processes, results, or words without giving appropriate credit

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