

Publishing Policies for Annual of Natural Sciences Department

III. Policy for preventing and treating conflicts of interest

III.1. General terms

All authors, peer reviewers and members of the editorial board must declare all their commitments, which may give rise to reasonable suspicions of a conflict of interest with regard to the submitted manuscripts to Annual of Natural Sciences Department.

A conflict of interest includes a financial association or relationship that could influence the objectivity, integrity, or interpretation of a publication. Such conflicts of interest include relationships with corporations whose products or services are related to the subject matter of the article. These relations include employment, substantive ownership of stock or mutual funds, membership on a standing advisory council or committee, service on the board of directors, or public association with the company or its products. Other areas of conflict of interest could include receiving consulting fees, patent filings, serving as a paid spokesperson, or providing services in exchange for honoraria.

When a conflict of interest is disclosed either by the author or editor, a footnote describing the disputed position will be included with the published article.

III.2. Conflict of Interest Policy: Authors

Authors are required during submission of their manuscripts to disclose any conflict of interest and acknowledge all funding sources supporting the work. This information should be included in the Acknowledgements section of the manuscript. The corresponding author must ensure that all contributors have been asked to disclose potential disputes that may be construed as a conflict of interest. Co-authors identified as the people who participated in the creation of the document should be excluded as editors and reviewers.

III.3. Conflict of Interest Policy: Reviewers and Editors

Peer Reviewers and editors are asked to recuse themselves from handling a paper if the conflict makes them unable to make an impartial scholarly judgment or evaluation. Peer reviewers may not undertake a review on a manuscript if they are unable to do so objectively. A peer reviewer or editor who has a conflict but believes that it does not preclude his or her making a proper judgment must disclose to the journal the nature of the conflict. Editorial decisions for manuscripts commissioned or solicited by the Editor in Chief will not be made by that Editor in Chief

Potential conflict of interest for reviewers

The invitation letter to reviewers will include the following paragraph: ‘If you know or think you know the identity of the author, and if you feel there is any potential conflict of interest in your refereeing this paper because of your relationship with the author (e.g. in terms of close friendship or conflict/rivalry) or for any other reason, please declare it.’ By accepting this invitation, it is assumed there is no potential conflict of interest.’ Standard policy will be not to use a referee if a conflict of interest has been declared, but the editors may use their discretion after consulting with one another.

Submission by an editor. A paper submitted by an editor will be handled by one of the other editors who does not have a conflict with the review and who is not at the same institution as the submitting editor. The other editor will select referees and make all decisions on publishing the paper.

Submission by author at same institution as one of the editors. A paper submitted by an author for which there is a potential conflict with who is at the same institution as one of the editors will be handled by one of the other editors. The other editor will select referees and make all decisions on the paper.

Submission by family member of editor or by author whose relationship with editor might create the perception of bias. A paper submitted by a family member of one of the editors, or by an author whose relationship with one of the editors might create the perception of bias (e.g. in terms of close friendship or conflict/rivalry), will be handled by another editor. The other editor will select referees and make all decisions on the paper. If in doubt, the editors will consult with the Journal editor.

Annual of Natural Sciences Department reserves the right to publish an erratum disclosing conflict(s) of interest related to a previously published paper. Authors, referees, or editors who have deliberately or recklessly failed to disclose conflicts of interest may receive sanctions, including being banned from publishing in Annual of Natural Sciences Department for a period of time.

This policy applies to all material published in Annual of Natural Sciences Department including research articles, reviews, and commentaries.

III.4. Plagiarism

Each manuscript received in the Annual of Natural Sciences Department is checked for plagiarism, duplication of publication or re-use of texts before being sent to an editor and a reviewer (s) appointed. The Plagscan system is used for inspection.

III.5. Content malpractice

Annual of Natural Sciences Department follows the best practices and ethical norms in eliminating omissions and mistakes, as well as downloading published materials when necessary. Preventing malpractice of publications is one of the most important responsibilities of the editorial team. Any unethical action is unacceptable to us and plagiarism is not tolerated in any form. The author declares the originality of the publication by submitting his manuscript. Read our Ethics for publishing and acts of malpractice.