Joint Policies for the ASN Family of Journals

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ASN Journals and Equality: The ASN family of journals fully supports ASN's efforts to achieve equality to reduce the adverse impact of racism, especially on health and in health care. ASN journals are working to improve equity in the following ways and will continue to identify other avenues to reduce systemic racism:

1. Diversifying the editorial board to better address and reflect diverse populations;
2. Creating collections of original content highlighting systemic racism and care disparities; and
3. Soliciting invited articles on:
   a. Health care crises around the globe, including a focus on patient voices; and
   b. Special series addressing racism in health care, as well as institutional, educational, and professional settings.
4. Making all articles freely accessible to researchers in developing countries through the Health Inter Network Access to Research Initiative (HINARI).

To help support this important goal, authors, editors, and readers are encouraged to share their ideas about additional opportunities for inclusion with Shari Leventhal, Executive Editor, at sleventhal@asn-online.org.

ASN Journal Policy on Scientific Misconduct: ASN journals uphold the highest standards of peer review and academic publishing. The work of authors and reviewers contributes to the common aim of understanding the latest advances in basic, clinical, and translational research. In very rare instances, editors receive notification or allegations of misconduct related to studies submitted to ASN journals, and the process for responding to such notification is detailed below.
Concerns raised before publication: If a reviewer or a coauthor raises a concern about a manuscript that is undergoing peer review and the Editor-in-Chief agrees, the journal will notify the author(s) and request a response to the concerns. (Such concerns include but are not limited to questions regarding plagiarism, duplicate publication, access to data, and integrity of data or undeclared conflicts of interest.) In most instances, these concerns are readily addressed and resolved and involve honest errors or differences in interpretation, rather than any intent to deceive.

If the authors do not respond satisfactorily (or at all) to the concerns raised, or if the Editor-in-Chief is presented with evidence that indicates serious concerns regarding the conduct of the study, then the Editor-in-Chief will notify the Chair of the ASN Publications Committee and will determine a course of action, in part determined by applicable laws, which may include any or all of the following:

1. Rejecting the manuscript;
2. Prohibiting future submissions from the authors of the manuscript for a specified period;
3. Obtaining an advisory opinion from the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE);
4. Reporting their concerns to the authors’ institutions;
5. Reporting their concerns to the funding agency; and
6. Reporting their concerns to the Office of Research Integrity or other authorized investigative agency.

If the matter has been deemed serious enough to warrant the attention of the publications committee, the Chair will keep the ASN President informed of all developments.

Concerns raised after electronic and/or print publication:

If questions are raised by a reader regarding a published study and the Editor-in-Chief agrees, then the journal will notify the author(s) and request a response to the stated concerns. (Such concerns include but are not limited to questions regarding plagiarism, duplicate publication, access to data, and integrity of data or undeclared conflicts of interest.) In most instances, these concerns are readily resolved and involve honest errors or differences in interpretation, rather than any intent to deceive.

If the authors do not respond satisfactorily (or at all) to the concerns raised, or if the editors are presented with evidence that indicates serious concerns regarding the conduct of the study, then the Editor-in-Chief will notify the Chair of the publications committee and determine a course of action, in part determined by applicable laws, which may include any or all of the following:

1. Reporting their concerns to the authors’ institutions;
2. Prohibiting future submissions from the authors of the manuscript for a specified period;
3. Obtaining an advisory opinion from the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE);
4. Reporting their concerns to the funding agency;
5. Reporting their concerns to the Office of Research Integrity or other authorized investigative agency;
6. Publishing a statement of concern in the journal;
7. Issuing a retraction; and/or
8. Notifying any other publication involved (in the case of duplicate publication or plagiarism).

If the matter has been deemed serious enough to warrant the attention of the publications committee, the Chair will keep the ASN President informed of all developments.

Authorship: ASN journals have adopted the criteria recommended by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) in the current update of the Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals: Authorship credit should be based on (1) substantial contributions to conception and design, or acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data; (2) drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content; (3) final approval of the version to be published; and (4) agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work pre- and post-publication. The full text of the Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals is available at http://www.icmje.org/.

For author contributors, ASN journals have adopted this statement from the Annals of Internal Medicine: “When used, professional writing assistance must be acknowledged. If those assisting with the writing do not meet criteria for authorship their contributions should be noted in the acknowledgments.” This information is available at https://www.acpjournals.org/journal/aim/authors#preparing-manuscripts-for-submission.

Study Group Authors: If the author list includes study group(s), submitting authors must provide a list of the participating study group(s) and contributors in the manuscript and the online submission form. The list may contain a collaboration of individuals (e.g., investigators) and/or the name of an organization (e.g., a laboratory, educational institution, corporation, or department) and its members. If the list of group members’ names exceeds 4250 characters, the group members’ names will appear in the Supplemental Material and will still be indexed in PubMed.

Authorship Contributions: ASN journals require submitting authors to include authorship contributions during submission by utilizing Contributor Roles Taxonomy (CRediT). CRediT provides several benefits, including enabling visibility and recognition of the different contributions of researchers. Additional information is available at https://casrai.org/credit/.

Duplicate Submission or Prior Publication: During submission, authors must state that neither the manuscript nor any significant part of it is under consideration for publication elsewhere or has appeared elsewhere in a manner that could be construed as a duplicate or prior publication of the same, or similar, work. Abstracts for scientific meetings are not considered previous publication but should be cited in the Acknowledgments section of the manuscript. Should there be doubt concerning prior publications, the title page and abstract of such material and of related manuscripts submitted for publication at other journals must be included with the submit-
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ASN journals require registration in a public trial registry. Trials must be registered before the onset of patient enrollment. This policy applies to any clinical trial. Studies designed for other purposes, such as to study pharmacokinetics or major toxicity (e.g., phase I trials) are exempt. ASN journals do not advocate a specific registry, but registration must be with a registry that meets the following minimum criteria:

1. Accessible to the public at no charge, searchable by standard electronic (internet-based) methods, open to all prospective registrants free of charge or at minimal cost, validation of registered information, and identification of trials with a unique number.

2. Provide information on the investigator(s), the research question or hypothesis, methodology, intervention and comparisons, eligibility criteria, primary and secondary outcomes measured, date of registration, anticipated or actual start date, anticipated or actual date of last follow-up, target number of subjects, status (anticipated, ongoing, or closed), and funding source(s).

The registration number and the date of registration must be included within the “Methods” section of the manuscript.

Examples of registries that meet ICMJE approval are listed below. This registries list is current as of October 19, 2020 and is subject to change. ASN journals will also review articles registered elsewhere on a case-by-case basis.

1. www.anzctr.org.au
2. www.clinicaltrials.gov
3. www.ISRCTN.org
4. www.umin.ac.jp/ctr/index/htm
5. www.trialregister.nl
   (new registrations after June 20, 2011)

Data Sharing: ASN journals subscribe to the ICMJE Data Sharing policy for clinical trials. For more information, see http://www.icmje.org/recommendations/browse/publishing-and-editorial-issues/clinical-trial-registration.html.

All manuscripts that report the results of clinical trials must contain a data sharing statement with the following information:

1. Whether individual deidentified participant data (including data dictionaries) will be shared;
2. What data in particular will be shared;
3. Whether additional, related documents will be available
   (e.g., study protocol, statistical analysis plan, etc.);
4. When the data will become available and for how long; and
5. By what access criteria data will be shared (including with whom, for what types of analyses, and by what mechanism).

All submitted manuscripts that report systems-level analyses (‘-omics’) must deposit data in a publicly accessible archiving site and provide appropriate links and dataset identifiers in the Methods section. Examples include:

1. For DNA-based assays, such as GWAS (SNP array), whole-exome sequencing (WES), or whole-genome se-
Institutional Review Board or Ethics Committee Oversight: For all clinical experimentation, indicate approval by an Institutional Review Board or equivalent Ethics Committee with oversight authority for the protection of human research subjects within the Methods section. If the study is deemed exempt from Institutional Review Board or Ethics Committee approval, provide the reason for exemption.

Declaration of Helsinki: ASN journals require that authors state in the Methods section adherence to the Declaration of Helsinki. For the full text of the Declaration of Helsinki, see https://www.wma.net/policies-post/wma-declaration-of-helsinki-ethical-principles-for-medical-research-involving-human-subjects/.

Animals: For all animal studies, authors must state adherence to the NIH Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals or the equivalent. Authors reporting animal studies are encouraged to refer to the ARRIVE guidelines: https://www.nc3rs.org.uk/3rs-resources. For studies that report several experimental series, inclusion of a supplemental table summarizing key features of all experimental series is encouraged. The table should list the series, animals used, the intervention, the sample size, outcome measures, whether there was experimenter or observer blinding, and figure and table numbers for results.

Antibodies: A description of all antibodies used must be included in the Methods section, providing the source and catalog/clone number for commercial antibodies or a description/reference to a description of the generation of custom antibodies. Steps to verify specificity must be described.

Cell Lines: Authors must describe the source of all cell lines utilized. As appropriate, include information regarding authentication of cell lines.

Declaration Policies

Animal Experimentation: For all animal experimentation described in the manuscript, ASN journals require that the Methods section include a statement of adherence to the NIH Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals or a national equivalent. For the full text of the NIH guidelines, see http://oacu.od.nih.gov/regs/guide/guide.pdf.

Institutional Review Board or Ethics Committee Oversight: For all clinical experimentation, indicate approval by an Institutional Review Board or equivalent Ethics Committee with oversight authority for the protection of human research subjects within the Methods section. If the study is deemed exempt from Institutional Review Board or Ethics Committee approval, provide the reason for exemption.

Declaration of Istanbul: The purpose of the Declaration is to combat organ trafficking, transplant tourism, and transplant commercialism and to encourage adoption of effective and ethical transplantation practices around the world. ASN journals require that studies related to clinical organ transplantation include the following wording in the Methods section: “The clinical and research activities being reported are consistent with the Principles of the Declaration of Istanbul as outlined in the ‘Declaration of Istanbul on Organ Trafficking and Transplant Tourism.’” The Declaration of Istanbul is available at https://doi.org/10.2215/CJN.03320708.

Organs from Executed Prisoners: ASN journals do not accept manuscripts whose data derive from transplants involving organs obtained from executed prisoners.

Format and Process

Formatting: For original research manuscripts, ASN journals will consider initial submissions that are not formatted according to the journal’s specifications. Invited material should adhere to the formatting requirements indicated in the submission invitation. The editors recommend downloading the latest style list from EndNote to ensure proper reference formatting. Additional formatting information is available in “Author Resources” on each journal’s website.

Style Guide: ASN journals generally follow the AMA style guide, which includes updated nomenclature for kidney function and disease, as developed during KDIGO’s Consensus Conference on Nomenclature for Kidney Function and Disease. See details here: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.kint.2020.02.010.

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Transfers: If a manuscript is deemed not suitable for one ASN journal, authors may request the transfer of their manuscript for consideration to another ASN journal. The submitting author may indicate their transference preference at the time of initial submission to any ASN journal. If a submitting author has elected to transfer their manuscript, the manuscript files, including reviews, will automatically be supplied to the transferred journal. The comments from the editors and reviewers will be used at the discretion of the receiving journal’s editorial team.
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**Manuscript Components**

**Checklists:** ASN journals expect authors to adhere to established guidelines for reporting of preclinical and clinical research. Adapted versions of the checklists noted below are available in “Author Resources” on each journal’s website.

- CHEERS Checklist for Economic Evaluation of Health Interventions
- CONSORT Checklist for Clinical Trials*
- COREQ Checklist for Reporting Qualitative Studies
- PRISMA Checklist for Systematic Reviews and meta-analysis
- SQUIRE Checklist (Standards for Quality Improvement Reporting Excellence)
- STROBE Checklist for Observational Studies
- TRIPOD Checklist for Prediction Model Development and Validation

*Randomized Controlled Trials: ASN journals encourage authors submitting reports of randomized controlled trials to review the CONSORT Statement (http://www.consort-statement.org/). The same considerations apply for secondary analyses of randomized trials that are analyzed by treatment arm. Authors preparing reports of randomized clinical trials are expected to include a CONSORT flow diagram (http://www.consort-statement.org/consort-statement/flow-diagram) as the first figure in the manuscript.

**Disclosures:** ASN journals have adopted the ASN Conflict of Interest and Disclosure Policy. Instructions on how authors must submit their updated disclosures to the submission system are available in “Author Resources” on each journal’s website. Instructions are also automatically emailed to each author at the appropriate time following submission. An ASN Journal Disclosure Form must be completed for each manuscript. The form must be submitted by each author and it must include the unique Manuscript ID and Manuscript Title for the submitted article.

ASN journals are committed to ensuring the integrity of its scientific, educational, and research activities. ASN’s conflict of interest policy requires disclosure of any financial or other interest (commitment) that might be construed as resulting in an actual, potential, or perceived conflict. **Authors of submissions to CJASN, JASN, or Kidney360, are required to disclose any financial relationship or commitment for the previous 36 months held by the author and any spouse/partner of the author.** The form must be submitted even if an author has no disclosures to report.

Failure to comply and/or accurately and completely report the potential financial conflicts of interest could lead to the following: 1) Prior to publication, article rejection, or 2) Post-publication, sanctions ranging from, but not limited to, issuing a correction, reporting the inaccurate information to the authors’ institution, banning authors from submitting work to ASN journals for varying lengths of time, and/or retraction of the published work.

**Funding:** Authors should report all funding sources that were used to support the submitted work. If applicable, grant names and numbers must be provided. Information for funders who have supplied funds outside of the submitted work should be placed in the Disclosures section and not in the Funding section.

**Acknowledgments:** Information in the “Acknowledgments” section of the manuscript may include any/all the following:

1. Personal thanks for technical assistance, advice; performance of special tests; use of laboratory facilities; manuscript preparation, including editorial or clerical assistance from individual persons (e.g., individuals who helped type or proofread the manuscript); critical review of the manuscript;
2. Brief dedications;
3. Previous presentation information;
4. Author degree candidacy and relationship of the submitted work to the degree;
5. References to sources of material related to the research;
6. Role of sponsors, government agencies, or employers in the research presented; and
7. Disclaimers (“The content of this publication does not reflect the views or policies of …”)

**Publication Policies**

**Copyright:** ASN journals require authors of all submitted manuscripts to assign copyright of their published contributions. The author copyright license form provides policy details. After submission of an article, each author will receive an email with a link to a copyright form. Each author must sign and date the form and submit it electronically. ASN journals recognize that for US Government employees, work created within the scope of their employ is in the public domain, and copyright transfer is not required for such work.

**Embargo:** All information regarding the content and publication date of accepted manuscripts is strictly confidential. Information contained in or about accepted articles may not appear in print or electronic format, nor on the radio, television, or social media, or be released by the news media until after 5:00 PM EST on the day the article appears in the Published-Ahead-of-Print page on the journal’s website or on the day the published version is mailed, whichever comes first. This policy is not meant to inhibit the presentation of the work to, or its discussion among, other researchers. For information about publication dates for specific articles, contact Christine Feheley at 202-640-4638 or email cfeheley@asn-online.org.
Publication Fees and Open Access

The “Publication Fees,” “Open Access,” and “Author Choice” sections below are specific to CJASN and JASN. See the “Kidney360 Fees” section below for Kidney360 fees.

Publication Fees:
1. Page Charges: Authors will be charged $70.00 per manuscript page.
2. Figure Charges: Authors will be charged $500.00 per color page. (Figures submitted in color will be published in color.)
3. Invited Material Charges: Authors of invited material are exempt from page and figure charges.

Open Access: ASN journals recognize and support the efforts of sponsoring agencies and institutions to increase access to the research that they fund. ASN journals automatically submit all articles directly to PubMed Central, where they will be freely accessible within 12 months of publication. If an article needs to be made freely accessible upon online publication, ASN journals offer the Author Choice program. For an additional fee, articles are made freely accessible immediately upon online publication. See the “Author Choice” section for details. Authors are encouraged to archive their version of the manuscript in their institution's repository. Authors should cite the publication reference and DOI on any deposited version and provide a link from their version to the published article on the journal's website. Journal articles are freely accessible to researchers in developing countries through the Health Inter Network Access to Research Initiative (HINARI).

Author Choice: Authors may choose to have the digital posting of their manuscript freely accessible immediately upon publication through a program called “Author Choice.” The Author Choice flat fee to make an author's manuscript freely accessible upon publication online is $3000. The fee must be prepaid before the manuscript will be made accessible. Authors will have the opportunity to make this choice during submission and/or when the page proofs and invoice are received.

Kidney360 Fees: The only fee for Kidney360 is a $1600 Article Processing Charge, which is applied to the following article types: Original Investigation, Innovative Technology and Methodology, and Brief Communication. For more information, see https://kidney360.asnjournals.org/content/accepted-manuscripts#APC%20Table.

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