

## **ASN Policy on Scientific Misconduct (ASN Kidney Week and other ASN meetings)**

The American Society of Nephrology (ASN) upholds the highest standards of academic publishing and presentation. The work of authors, presenters, and reviewers contributes to our common aim of understanding the latest advances in basic, clinical, and translational research. In rare instances, ASN may receive notification or allegations of misconduct related to material submitted to, presented, or scheduled for presentation during, ASN meetings such as ASN Kidney Week or ASN Highlights. Such questions or concerns may include but are not limited to questions regarding plagiarism, duplicate publication, prior presentation, access to data, integrity of data, or undeclared conflicts of interest. This policy sets forth ASN's process for responding to such notifications or allegations.

*Questions or concerns raised prior to final decision regarding publication of abstract or presentation of material.*

If a reviewer, concerned co-author or sponsor, or other third party raises a question or concern about an abstract submission that is then undergoing review, or a planned presentation, and the ASN Kidney Week Education Committee Co-Chairs (or other ASN leader if one or both co-chairs have conflicts) agree, ASN will follow the protocol below:

- a) The Chair of the ASN Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Committee (or another committee member if the chair has relevant conflicts) will work with the ASN Senior Director of Education to review the question or concern to determine if it can be addressed immediately or needs to be raised with the author or presenter.
- b) If the CPD Committee Chair or Senior Director of Education deem the question or concern to be unresolved following the procedure in a) above, ASN will notify the author and request a response to the question or concern from the author or presenter. It is the responsibility of author or presenter to inform all others involved with the submission or presentation of the

questions or concerns raised. The author will have five business days from the date of ASN's notice to respond, unless the CPD Committee Chair or Senior Director of Education grant additional time due to extenuating circumstances.

c) If the CPD Committee Chair or Senior Director of Education determine that the author or presenter's response is not satisfactory (or if the author or presenter fails to respond to their request), or if ASN is presented with evidence that raises serious concerns regarding the integrity of the submission or presentation, the CPD Committee Chair or Senior Director of Education will notify the ASN Executive Vice President. The Executive Vice President will determine ASN's response and course of action, which will be guided by, among other things, established ethical guidelines and applicable law. The course of action may include, but is not limited to, any or all of the following:

- rejecting the submission or cancelling the presentation;
- prohibiting future submissions or presentation from the author(s) or presenter(s) to ASN for a specified period of time;
- reporting ASN's concerns to the author or presenter's institution;
- reporting ASN's concerns to any other funding agency named in the abstract;
- reporting ASN's concerns to the Office of Research Integrity or other authorized
- investigative agency.

The Senior Director of Education or the Executive Vice President may keep the ASN President informed of all developments, but would first need to confirm the ASN President had no relevant conflicts of interest.

*Concerns or questions raised subsequent to final abstract decision/publication or meeting presentation.*

If a question or concern is raised regarding material post publication or presentation, ASN will follow the following protocol:

a) The question or concern will be presented to the Senior Director of Education to determine if it can be addressed immediately or needs to be raised with the author or presenter. If the Senior

Director of Education determines the issue needs to be raised with the author or presenter, ASN will notify the author or presenter and request a response to the stated question or concern. It is the responsibility of the author or presenter to inform all others involved with the proposed project of the questions or concerns raised. The author or presenter will have five business days from the date of ASN's notice to respond, unless the Senior Director of Education grants additional time due to extenuating circumstances.

b) If the Senior Director of Education determines that the author or presenter's response is not satisfactory (or if the author or presenter fails to the request), or if ASN is presented with evidence that raises serious concerns regarding the integrity of the abstract or presentation, the Senior Director of Education will notify the CPD Committee Chair and the ASN Executive Vice President. The Executive Vice President will determine ASN's response and course of action, which will be guided by, among other things, established ethical guidelines and applicable law. The course of action may include, but is not limited to, any or all of the following:

- reporting ASN's concerns to the author or presenter's institution;
- prohibiting future submissions or presentations to ASN for a specified period of time;
- reporting ASN's concerns to any other funding agency involved with the project;
- reporting ASN's concerns to the Office of Research Integrity or other authorized investigative agency;
- publishing a statement of concern;
- issuing a retraction;
- notifying any other society if the abstract has been presented elsewhere, or journal editor if an article resulting from the abstract has been published.