

Consensus Statement on Submission and Publication of Manuscripts

Increasing problems of duplicate and fraudulent submissions and publications have prompted the undersigned editors of surgical journals to support these overall principles of publication.

DUPLICATE SUBMISSION AND PUBLICATION

In general, if a manuscript has been peer-reviewed and published, any subsequent publication is duplication. Exceptions to this general rule may be:

- a) Prior publication in meeting program abstract booklets or expanded abstracts such as those published by the *Surgical Forum* of the American College of Surgeons or *Transplantation Proceedings*. However, these must be referenced in the final manuscript.
- b) A manuscript which extends an original database (a good rule might be expansion by 50% or more) or which analyzes the original database in a different way in order to prove or disprove a different hypothesis. Previous manuscripts reporting the original database must, however, be referenced.
- c) Manuscripts which have been published originally in non-English language journals, provided that the prior publication is clearly indicated on the English language submission and referenced in the manuscript. In some circumstances, permission to publish may need to be obtained from the non-English language journal.

For example, any submission duplicating material previously published in full in “Proceedings” or book chapters is considered duplicate unless the exceptions in (a) above apply. Similarly, manuscripts dealing with subgroups of data (i.e., patients) that have previously been analyzed, discussed and published as a larger group are considered duplicate unless (b) above applies.

The Internet raises special concerns. If data have previously appeared on the Internet, submission of that data for publication is considered duplication. If Internet publication *follows* journal publication, the journal publication should be clearly referenced. Some journals may provide early Internet publication of accepted peer reviewed papers which are subsequently published in that journal. This does not constitute duplication if both manuscripts are identical *and* covered by the same single copyright.

FRAUDULENT PUBLICATION

The following activities are examples of fraudulent publication practices:

- a) Willful and knowing submissions of false data for publication.
- b) Submission of data from sources not the author’s (or authors’) own.
- c) Falsely certifying that the submitted work is original and has not been submitted to, or accepted by, another journal.
- d) Sponsoring or vouching for a manuscript containing data over which the sponsor has no control or knowledge.
- e) Allowing one’s name to appear as an author without having contributed significantly to the study.
- f) Adding an author’s name to a manuscript to which he/she has not contributed, or reviewed or agreed to in its current form.
- g) Flagrant omission of reference to work of other investigators which established their priority.
- h) Falsification of any item on the copyright form.
- i) Failure to disclose potential conflict of interest with a sponsoring agency.

While not intended as an all-inclusive document, these examples and guidelines should alert authors to potential problems that should be avoided when they are considering submission of a manuscript to a peer-reviewed journal.

- American Journal of Surgery* **Hiram C. Polk, Jr., MD**
American Surgeon **Talmadge A. Bowden, Jr., MD**
- Annals of Surgery* **Layton F. Rikkers, MD**
Annals of Surgical Oncology **Charles M. Balch, MD**
Current Surgery **Walter J. Pories, MD**
Digestive Surgery **Eduard H. Farthmann, MD**
Markus W. Büchler, MD
Victor Fazio, MB, MS
- Diseases of the Colon and Rectum*
Journal of the American College of Surgeons **Seymour Schwartz, MD**
Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery **John L. Cameron, MD**
Keith A. Kelly, MD
Journal of Japan Medical Association **Yasuo Idezuki, MD**
Journal of Japan Society for Endoscopic Surgery **Yasuo Idezuki, MD**
Journal of Japan Surgical Association **Yasuo Idezuki, MD**
- Journal of Pediatric Surgery* **Jay Grosfeld, MD**
Journal of Surgical Research **Wiley W. Souba, MD**
David W. McFadden, MD
Andrew S. Wechsler, MD
- Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery*
Journal of Vascular Surgery **Robert B. Rutherford, MD**
K. Wayne Johnston, MD
Danny O. Jacobs, MD
- Journal of Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition*
Surgery **Andrew L. Warshaw, MD**
Michael Sarr, MD
Bruce V. MacFadyen, Jr., MD
- Surgical Endoscopy*
Surgical Laparoscopy, Endoscopy and Percutaneous Techniques **Carol E.H. Scott-Conner, MD, PhD**
Maurice Arregui, MD
The Journal of Trauma **Basil A. Pruitt, Jr., MD**
World Journal of Surgery **Ronald K. Tompkins, MD**
Zentralblatt für Chirurgie **Albrecht Encke, MD**