

GUEST EDITORIAL

**The Editorial Policy on Conflict of Interest- A Major Issue for the
Indian Medical Journals**

Kusal K. Das

*Environmental Health Research Unit, Department of Physiology, Al Ameen Medical College,
Bijapur-586108, (Karnataka), India*

It is really an achievement for any institution to take up a challenge to start publishing a medical journal. For this we must congratulate Krishna Institute of Medical Sciences University and its management for accepting such a challenge!

The most complicated part to run a medical journal is its Editorial Policy. There are several vested interests in research publications hence the editorial policy is the sole important factor to control and regulate ethical publications in medical sciences. The management of each medical journal must have comprehensive idea and knowledge in this matter. Editors of scientific journals have responsibilities toward the authors who are the backbone of the journals, the peer reviewers who review and help editors on the suitability of manuscripts for publication, the readers and the scientific community, the owners or publishers of the journals, and the common people at large. The fundamental editorial responsibilities go on providing guidelines for preparing and submitting manuscripts, establishing and enforcing authorship criteria, treating all authors with fairness, courtesy, objectivity and honesty establishing and defining policies on

conflicts of interest for all involved in the publication process, including editors, staff, authors and reviewers and protecting the confidentiality of every author's work. These tasks are not so simple and a very efficient editorial management team is needed to organize such works. Among various obstructions to run a medical journal the most difficult task is to rule out conflict of interest in the publishing process. The conflict of interest may be anything that interferes with or could reasonably be perceived as interfering with, the full and objective presentation, peer review, editorial decision making, or publication of research or non-research articles submitted to one of the journals. It can be financial or non-financial, professional, or personal. Everyone involved from authorship, funding, review, and editorial decision-making of submitted articles to critics must declare any and all relevant conflicts of interests. A good medical journal should not publish a paper if they believe that the competing interests declared by the authors or funding agency might have compromised the objectivity or validity of the research, analyses, or interpretations of the paper.

A failure to declare conflict of interests at submission should result in immediate rejection of the manuscript. If a conflict of interest comes to light after publication, the editorial board of the journal must issue a formal correction with apology or retract the article

at the earliest.

I am sure that Journal of Krishna Institute of Medical Sciences University will definitely take care of this important issue and will be a role model for other Indian medical journals.

**Corresponding Author: Prof. Kusal K. Das. Department of Physiology, Al Ameen Medical College, Bijapur-586108, (Karnataka), India. Email: kusaldas@yahoo.com . Cell - 09448194257
Prof. Das is an Editorial Advisor of JKIMSU, Karad.*