

The Farmington Consensus

Preamble

The purpose of this statement is to define the basis for shared identity, commitment and purpose among journals publishing in the field of psychoactive substance use and associated problems. Our aim is to enhance the quality of our endeavours in this multi-disciplinary field. We share common concerns and believe that we do well to join together in their solution. To that end we accede to this document as a statement of our consensus and as basis for future collaboration.

1. Commitment to the peer review process

- 1.1 We are committed to peer review and would expect research reports and scientific reviews to go through this process. As regards to the extent to which other material will be so reviewed, we see that as a matter for editorial discretion, but policies should be declared.
- 1.2 Referees should be told that their access to the papers on which they have been requested to comment is in strict confidence. Confidentiality should not be broken by pre-publication statements on the content of the submission. Manuscripts sent to reviewers should be returned to the editor or destroyed.
- 1.3 Referees should be asked to declare to the editor if they have a conflict of interest in relation to the material which they are invited to review, and if in doubt they should consult the editor. We define 'conflict of interest' as a situation in which professional, personal or financial considerations could be seen by a fair-minded person as potentially in conflict with independence of judgement. Conflict of interest is not in itself wrongdoing.
- 1.4 We are committed to enhancing the quality and efficacy of the peer review system that our journals operate. To that end we will, within our own journals, audit the quality of

peer review on a continuous basis and where possible provide training to enhance the quality of peer review.

2. Expectations of authors

We put the following expectations to authors:

- 2.1 *Authorship*: All listed authors on a paper should have been personally and substantially involved in the work leading to the paper.
- 2.2 *Avoidance of double publication*: Authors are expected to ensure that no significant part of the submitted material has been published previously and that it is not concurrently being considered by another journal. An exception to this general position may be made when previous publication has been limited to another language, to local publication in report form, or to publication of a conference abstract. In all such instances, authors should consult the editor. Authors are asked to provide the editor at the time of submission with copies of published or submitted reports that are related to that submission. Editors are encouraged to develop their own policies regarding the implications of electronic publishing.
- 2.3 *Sources of funding for the submitted paper must be declared and will be published.*
- 2.4 *Conflicts of interest experienced by authors*: Authors should declare to the editor if their relationship with any type of funding source might be fairly construed as exposing them to potential conflict of interest.
- 2.5 *Protection of human and animal rights*: Where applicable authors should give an assurance that ethical safeguards have been met.
- 2.6 *Technical preparation of papers*: Instructions for authors will be published on the technical preparation of papers with the form of these guidelines at the discretion of individual journals.

3. Formal response to breach of expectations by an author

Working in collaboration with our authors, we have a responsibility to support the expectations of good scientific publishing practice. To that end each journal will have defined policies for response to attempted or actual instances of duplicate publication, plagiarism or scientific fraud.

4. Maintaining editorial independence

4.1 We are committed to independence in the editorial process. To the extent that the owner or another body may influence the editorial process, this should be declared, and in that case sources of support from the alcohol, tobacco, pharmaceutical or other relevant interests should be published in the journal.

4.2 We will publish declarations on sources of support received by a journal, and will maintain openness in regard to connections which a journal or its editorial staff may have established which could reasonably be construed as conflict of interest.

4.3 *Funding for journal supplements:* When we publish journal supplements, an indication will be given of sources of support for their production.

4.4 *Refereeing journal supplements:* An editorial note will be published to indicate whether they have been peer reviewed.

4.5 *Advertising:* Acceptance of advertising will be determined by, or in consultation with, the editor of each journal.

*15th July 1997
Farmington, CT, USA*