**Publication Ethics and Publication Malpractice Statement**

For all parties involved in the act of publishing - the author, the journal editor(s), the peer reviewer and the publisher - it is necessary to agree upon standards of expected ethical behaviour. The ethics statements for the *GI_Forum Journal* are based on the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) Core Practices ([https://publicationethics.org/core-practices](https://publicationethics.org/core-practices)).

**Duties of the Editors-in-Chief**

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Editors-in-Chief evaluate submitted manuscripts solely based on their academic merit (importance, originality, study’s validity, clarity), its relevance to the journal’s scope and regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, religious belief, ethnic origin, citizenship, or political philosophy of the authors. Decisions to edit and publish are not determined by the policies of governments or any other agencies outside of the journal itself. The Editors-in-Chief have full authority over the entire editorial content of the journal and the timing of publication of that content.

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Duties of the Publisher

Handling of unethical publishing behaviour

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