Publishing Integrity, Plagiarism, Piracy

In order to safeguard the quality of its publications, Springer has developed a new policy on Publishing Integrity. In line with the philosophy of the Committee on Publishing Ethics (COPE) we follow the principle that we have a prime duty to maintain the integrity of the scientific record. By providing Springer’s Policy on Publishing Integrity we aim to optimally assist Springer Publishing Editors as well as Editors-in-Chief, Editors, Reviewers and Authors with this heavy task.

In Springer’s Policy on Publishing Integrity the following can be found:
- Clear definitions of what violation of Publishing Integrity is.
- A manual on how to identify such a violation (in the document referred to as an Act of Misconduct).
- Clear (COPE) examples of what such an Act of Misconduct looks like in practice.
- Clearly defined actions which have to be undertaken by the Editor and Springer when such an Act is a clearly proven fact.
- Q & A – a useful list of Questions and Answers on the definition of Publishing Integrity

Overview of Springer’s Policy on Publishing Integrity

INTRODUCTION

Springer’s business is publishing. We provide scientific and professional communities throughout the world, with superior specialist information – produced by authors and guided by editors across geographic boundaries and cultures in a nurtured collegial atmosphere of which we are justifiably proud. We foster communication among researchers, faculty, students, and professionals enabling them to work more efficiently, thereby advancing knowledge and learning.

STATEMENT OF ETHICAL ISSUES

Springer has identified four fundamental ethical issues that are strictly against our publishing integrity:

1. Undeclared conflict of interest
2. Disputed authorship
3. Plagiarism/duplicate publication
4. Data fabrication/falsification

Springer has identified these issues based on the landmark article by Magne Nylen and Sigmund Simonsen, Scientific Misconduct: A New Approach to Prevention, and concurs in the belief that “...scientific misconduct is a continuum ranging from honest errors to outright fraud.”

In these guidelines you will find clear descriptions and practical examples of all four issues and clear plans of action if misconduct is substantiated by the responsible editors and/or Springer. In finding evidence, defining the issues, and providing practical examples we closely followed the guidelines of the Committee on Publishing Ethics (COPE), which is a forum for editors of peer-reviewed journals to discuss issues related to the integrity of the scientific record. COPE has defined these acts of misconduct and misconduct cases on its website, which is freely accessible to all editors at http://publicationethics.org/.

Please note that the COPE examples presented in this document to illustrate the issues are actual case studies and are used with the permission of COPE.

Please find the full document of Springer’s Policy on Publishing Integrity here: http://www.springer.com/authors/journal+authors/helpdesk?SGWID=0-1723213-12-808304-0
Fighting plagiarism, piracy and fraud

Springer has created a taskforce to ensure that Springer content is handled as we have intended, because plagiarism, piracy and journal subscription fraud are the most regular threats to the author’s content.

Springer will assist with the detection of plagiarism by using CrossCheck or help to undertake further necessary action via the Committee on Publishing Ethics (COPE).

If you take notice of any unethical irregularities to Springer content, please get in touch with us.