

Editorial

Recently there has been an increased concern about conflicts of interests and disclosures related to scientific publications in medical journals, therefore, the editor-in-chief and the editorial board of *Acta medica Lituanica* adhere the policy of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE), Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals: Writing and Editing for Biomedical Publications:

“... Conflict of interest exists when an author (or the author’s institution), reviewer, or editor has financial or personal relationships that inappropriately influence (bias) his or her actions (such relationships are also known as dual commitments, competing interests, or competing loyalties). These relationships vary from those with negligible potential to those with great potential to influence judgment, and not all relationships represent true conflict of interest. The potential for conflict of interest can exist whether or not an individual believes that the relationship affects his or her scientific judgment. Financial relationships (such as employment, consultancies, stock ownership, honoraria, paid expert testimony) are the most easily identifiable conflicts of interest and the most likely to undermine the credibility of the journal, the authors, and of science itself. However, conflicts can occur for other reasons, such as personal relationships, academic competition, and intellectual passion. All participants in the peer review and publication process must disclose all relationships that could be viewed as presenting a potential conflict of interest...”¹.

The Editorial Board shares the politics of Council of Scientific Editors and the mission to “promote excellence in the communication of scientific information” as well as the requirements for conflict of interest declaration: “...Journals should require disclosure of all conflicts of interest from everyone involved in the publication process: editors, reviewers, editorial board members, editorial staff, and authors. The intent of disclosure is to allow others to make an informed decision about the existence and impact of potential conflicts of interest or bias, including the necessity for refusal or disqualification under extraordinary circumstances...”².

In order to make the submission process transparent, editors will refuse themselves from being responsible for manuscripts submitted by associates with whom they may have a conflict of interest. In this case manuscripts submitted to the *Acta medica Lituanica* will be handled by other editors.

All the published research works have to be approved by the Bioethics Committee or other consistent institutions, whereas patient’s privacy rights and ethical issues in animal and clinical research ensured.

The Editorial Board look forward for effective collaboration among authors, reviewers and editors with a view of the attractive and unbiased scientific publication for the readers.

¹ International Committee of Medical Journal Editors. Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals: Writing and Editing for Biomedical Publication. Available at: <http://www.icmje.org>. Updated October, 2007

² Council of Scientific Editors. Editorial Policy Statements. Available at: <http://www.councilscienceeditors.org/services/>