


Publication Ethics and Malpractice

January 2021

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Aims and scope: The Journal publishes peer-reviewed original papers, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, short communications and letters to the editor in the following fields: Balneology, Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine (PRM), Healthy Ageing, Climatology and Hydrothermotherapy.

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- Journals contact information for the editorial office:

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- Romanian Association of Balneology will take reasonable steps to identify and prevent the publication of papers where research misconduct has occurred.
- The Society and the editors will discourage such misconduct, or knowingly allow such misconduct to take place.
- The Balneo and PRM Research Journal will retract or correct articles when needed.
- Romanian Association of Balneology will publish corrections, clarifications, retractions and apologies when needed.

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 - Article Publication Charges: 200 Euro per admitted for publication article - it covers all publishing costs (indexing, editing, printing, evaluation)
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The manuscripts will be submitted via the online submission system at <http://bioclima.ro/ojs> or by email as an attachment in Word format to articleonbrj@bioclima.ro.

For submitting articles for Balneo and PRM Research Journal, authors must use the following template: [Balneo Template](#)

The manuscripts must be accompanied by Published Conflict-of-Interest Statement (see Form), Published Statement of Informed Consent (see Form), and Published Statement of Human and Animal Rights (see Form), signed by the main author, in the name of all authors, scanned and attached to the email.

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The language of papers is English.

After manuscript receipt, the corresponding author will receive a short e-mail confirming the receipt which will contain the registration number, the date the manuscript was received and the fact that the manuscript was send for peer-review. The Journal Peer-review Board Secretary chooses aleatory 2 peer-reviewers (from the Peer-review Board) and sends them by e-mail the manuscript.

The reviewer's decision (approval with no changes, approval with major/minor changes, rejection), taken on the responsibility of the peer-reviewers, will be immediately communicated by e-mail to the corresponding author by the editor.

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If the peer reviewers consider that the corresponding author did not meet/or met poorly the revision requests, they will deny the approval for publication, which will be communicated to the editor. The approval for publication once taken by the reviewers, the decision will be communicated in the editorial meeting.

The author who has the quality of editor-in-chief or editor does not participate in any way in the decision-making process of selection and publication of the respective article.

Peer-review process

- All the journal's content should be subjected to peer-review.
 - Peer-review is defined as obtaining advice on individual manuscripts from reviewers' expert in the field.
 - Peer-review Board: <http://bioclima.ro/JPR.pdf>
 - Peer-review protocol: <http://bioclima.ro/JPRV.pdf>
 - Editing regulations: <http://bioclima.ro/J121.pdf>
 - Reviewers should have no conflict of interest.
 - Reviewers should point out relevant published work which is not yet cited.
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- An article is accepted by an editor only after the receiving one completed peer-review article evaluation forms from two peer-reviewers.
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 - Peer-reviewers Board of Balneo and PRM Research Journal - [pdf link](#)
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Procedures for dealing with unethical behaviour

Identification of unethical behaviour

- Misconduct and unethical behaviour may be identified and brought to the attention of the editor and publisher at any time, by anyone.
- Misconduct and unethical behaviour may include, but need not be limited to, examples as outlined above.
- Whoever informs the editor or publisher of such conduct should provide sufficient information and evidence in order for an investigation to be initiated. All allegations should be taken seriously and treated in the same way, until a successful decision or conclusion is reached.

Investigation

- An initial decision should be taken by the editor, who should consult with or seek advice from the publisher, if appropriate.
- Evidence should be gathered, while avoiding spreading any allegations beyond those who need to know.

Minor breaches

- Minor misconduct might be dealt with without the need to consult more widely. In any event, the author should be given the opportunity to respond to any allegations.

Serious breaches

- Serious misconduct might require that the employers of the accused be notified. The editor, in consultation with the publisher or Society as appropriate, should make the decision whether or not to involve the employers, either by examining the available evidence themselves or by further consultation with a limited number of experts.

Outcomes (in increasing order of severity; may be applied separately or in conjunction)

- Informing or educating the author or reviewer where there appears to be a misunderstanding or misapplication of acceptable standards.
- A more strongly worded letter to the author or reviewer covering the misconduct and as a warning to future behaviour.
- Publication of a formal notice detailing the misconduct.
- Publication of an editorial detailing the misconduct.
- A formal letter to the head of the author's or reviewer's department or funding agency.
- Formal retraction or withdrawal of a publication from the journal, in conjunction with informing the head of the author or reviewer's department, Abstracting & Indexing services and the readership of the publication.
- Imposition of a formal embargo on contributions from an individual for a defined period.
- Reporting the case and outcome to a professional organisation or higher authority for further investigation and action.