



## **PUBLICATION ETHICS & MALPRACTICE STATEMENT**

Forum Criminalistic / Forensic Science Forum is committed to the Romanian and international academic community and independent researchers. In order to assure the highest standards for published articles a double blind reviewing policy is applied. In pursue of the compliance with academic standards, all parties involved in the publishing process (the authors, the editors and the editorial board and the reviewers) agree to meet the responsibilities stated below in accordance to the Journal publication ethics and malpractice statement.

The ethical principles of this documents are in accordance with the Committee of Publication Ethics and are meant to ensure quality and integrity in research.

### **a. Duties of Authors:**

- the author(s) warrant that the submitted article is an original work, which has not been previously published, and that they have obtained an agreement from any co-author(s) prior to the manuscript's submission. An author should not in general publish manuscripts describing essentially the same research in more than one journal or primary publication. Submitting the same manuscript to more than one journal concurrently constitutes unethical publishing behavior and is unacceptable.

- the author(s) should not submit articles describing essentially the same research to more than one journal;

- the authors(s) make certain that the manuscript meets the terms of the **template available on the website** regarding appropriate academic citation and that no copyright infringement occurs;

- the authors(s) should inform the editors about any conflict of interests and report any errors they subsequently discover in their manuscript.

### **b. Duties of Editors and the Editorial Board:**

- the editors, together with the editorial board, are responsible for deciding upon the publication or rejection of the submitted manuscripts based only on their originality, significance and relevance to the domains of the journal;

- the editors evaluate the manuscripts compliance with academic criteria, the domains of the journal and the guidelines;

- the editors must at all times respect the confidentiality of any information pertaining to the submitted manuscripts;

- the editors should respond promptly to complaints and should ensure there is a way for dissatisfied complainants to take complaints further.

- editors should be alert to intellectual property issues and work with their publisher to handle potential breaches of intellectual property laws and conventions.

- the editors assign the review of each manuscript to two reviewers chosen according to their domains of expertise. The editors must take into account any conflict of interest reported by the authors and the reviewers.

- the editors must ensure that the comments and recommendations of the reviewers are sent to the author(s) in due time and that the manuscripts are returned to the editors, who take the final decision to publish them or not.

### **c. Duties of Reviewers:**

- the reviewers must objectively evaluate the manuscripts based only on their originality, significance and relevance to the domains of the journal;

- the reviewers must in due time supply clear, objective and relevant comments and recommendations meant to improve the content of the submitted manuscript;

- manuscripts received for review must be treated as confidential documents. They must not be shown to or discussed with others except as authorized by the editor.

- reviews should be conducted objectively. Personal criticism of the author is inappropriate. Referees should express their views clearly with supporting arguments.

- reviewers should not review manuscripts in which they have conflicts of interest resulting from competitive, collaborative, or other relationships or connections with any of the authors, companies, or institutions connected to the papers.

### **d. Declaration of Authenticity**

At the submission of each paper, the corresponding author, on behalf of the authors, signs an **Declaration of Authenticity** to declare and confirm that the paper submitted for publication in the journal is an original one, not published and not submitted to another publication elsewhere. The corresponding author also declares that all the co-authors have contributed to the work, are responsible for the validity and originality of data contained therein and have all agreed to submit the current version, allowing the editors, in case of paper acceptance, to make editorial changes (grammar, punctuation, spelling and format corrections), but no major alterations of the paper.

### **e. Screening for plagiarism**

Every article is subject to anti-plagiarism evaluation, developed through dedicated software. Our tolerance limit is 20%.

The authors of all articles published in Forensic Science Forum must be aware and understand that the editorial board of the journal prevents and sanctions attempts and acts of plagiarism. The authors should ensure that they have written entirely original works, and if the authors have used the work and/or words of others that this has been appropriately cited or quoted.

#### **f. Dealing with possible misconduct**

Editors have a duty to act if they suspect misconduct or if an allegation of misconduct is brought to them. This duty extends to both published and unpublished papers. Editors should not simply reject papers that raise concerns about possible misconduct. They are ethically obliged to pursue alleged cases.

#### **g. Malpractice**

The authors are responsible for the opinions and ideas expressed within the articles. The reviewing process evaluates the objective quality of the article. As such, the Board and Reviewers will only be responsible for not fulfilling their duties related to the evaluation and not for subjective opinions expressed by an author.