

Ethics/Publications Committee Policy for JPGN editors

Initial policy developed by NASPGHAN Ethics and Publications Committee 2005

Revised – Sylviane Forget- Chair Ethics Committee - Dec 2014

Revised Athos Bousvaros-Chair Publications Committee -July 2016

Revised Raanan Shamir-President ESPGHAN-November 2017

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North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition (NASPGHAN) and European Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition (ESPGHAN) Policy on Ethics in Journalism.

I. Preamble.

The mission of NASPGHAN and ESPGHAN (hereby called also the societies) is to promote the science and clinical practice of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition. One means of accomplishing this is through the publication of scientific and educational materials. NASPGHAN and ESPGHAN sponsor numerous societal publications. Sites for publication of these materials include the *Journal of Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition* (JPGN) and its website, and the NASPGHAN and/or ESPGHAN websites respectively. Educational materials co-sponsored or endorsed by NASPGHAN or ESPGHAN in conjunction with other organizations are available through publications and the web sites of these organizations as well. Most of these publications are accessible to both health care professionals and the lay public, and are easily duplicated and distributed.

NASPGHAN and ESPGHAN has earned the respect and trust of the scientific community and general public as reliable and authoritative source of information on childhood digestive and nutritional disorders. To maintain this trust, NASPGHAN and ESPGHAN must ensure that materials endorsed or published by the Societies are both scientifically acceptable and free from bias and outside influence. This document is designed to serve as a guide to those involved in the development of publishable material sponsored or endorsed by the two societies that own JPGN. The purpose of this policy document is to:

- Guarantee that NASPGHAN and/or ESPGHAN endorsed publications meet the highest scientific and ethical standards and are free of bias introduced by the interests of authors, editors or financial sponsors.
- Create mechanisms to ensure there is complete and honest disclosure of any potential conflict of interest, and deal appropriately and fairly with instances of unacceptable conflict of interest and professional or ethical misconduct involving published materials.

In developing this document both societies endorse the guidelines for medical editors of the World Association of Medical Editors (www.wame.org/index.htm), the recommendations of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors in their document entitled “Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals: Writing and Editing for Biomedical Publications” (www.icmje.org), and the guidelines and international standards from the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE - <http://publicationethics.org/resources/guidelines>).

1. Policy on Ethical Issues Related to NASPGHAN and ESPGHAN Sponsored Publications.

1.1 Principle.

All publications endorsed by the Societies are scientifically rigorous, ethically defensible, socially responsible and free from bias or commercial influence.

1.2 Policy and Procedure.

- The respective Council, or both councils in joint publications is responsible for assuring that publications endorsed by the Society are scientifically accurate and free from potential conflict of interest. This process should begin by selecting authors who have no known commercial interests or affiliations that might compromise the integrity of the final document.
- Authors of publications are required to disclose any relationship with a commercial firm or organization, regardless of whether that relationship has potential for a conflict of interest, prior to participation as a document author. This includes, but is not limited to; holding equity/stock, research support, consulting fees, speaker fees, support from industry-financed educational foundations, or direct employment by industry. This declaration of interest should include not only personal support, but also support to the Institution (University, Hospital, Clinic, Foundation) with which the author is affiliated, obtained as a result of the authors' professional or personal activities, and/or which may benefit or be perceived to benefit the author. The NASPGHAN and/or ESPGHAN Executive Committee, or their designated appointee, will determine whether any disclosed relationship is of such nature that it disqualifies the individual from participation in preparation of the document. (See NASPGHAN policy on Conflict of Interest and Relationships with Industry and Other Organizations and ESPGHAN Rules and Regulations regarding declaration of interest and ESPGHAN Code of Conduct).
- Authors should not publicize their work, or share it with other parties including those in government or industry, until it has been reviewed and published, except with the prior approval of the relevant society Council. If the manuscript is to be published in JPGN, the Editor-in-chief must also grant permission for a manuscript that has been reviewed and accepted for publication to be disseminated prior to actual publication in the journal.
- Funds received by ESPGHAN, NASPGHAN or the NASPGHAN Foundation from industry for the purpose of producing a publication or document should be disclosed. Regardless of the source of funding, the respective society remain responsible for the content of the publication or document and this must be free of any influence by the industry sponsor.
- Development of documents bearing a high impact on clinical practice and patient management, including position papers, clinic practice guidelines and guidelines in

general, policies, statements, clinical reviews or technical report, should not be directly sponsored by any specific commercial entity. The production of such documents could be funded by the NASPGHAN Foundation or by ESPGHAN using pooled funds, some of which may have originated from corporate sponsorship, as long as funds originated from more than one company and there is no direct link between a specific topic and a specific company, and that the document development is completely free from commercial influence. Any direct commercial sponsorship for the purpose of developing a societal publication constitutes an unacceptable conflict of interest.

- In the event a complaint is lodged regarding an alleged COI for any Society endorsed publication or document, the relevant society President will refer the matter to the Ethics Committee for processing the complaint based on the relevant society, NASPGHAN/ESPGHAN Policy on Due Process for Professional and Ethical Misconduct).

2. Policy on Editorial Leadership of JPGN.

2.1 Principles

- The editors of JPGN should disclose any conflicts of interest that might detract from the integrity of this publication. All industry collaboration, or other associations that could be perceived as conflicts of interest, should be disclosed. If an editor has a conflict of interest affecting a specific paper that could potentially bias their editorial decision, they should recuse themselves from that particular decision.
- As per the international standards for editors published in 2011 by the Committee on Publication Ethics, the Editor shall uphold the following editorial principles:

- Accountability and responsibility for journal content

The Editor should take all measures necessary to ensure the integrity of the published record, including measures to deal with suspected research or publication misconduct

- Editorial independence and integrity

The editorial process should be separate from commercial activities of the journal, such that publishers and owners have no role in decisions concerning journal's content. This principle of editorial independence should be clearly stated in the Editor's contract with the journal.

- Confidentiality

The editors are responsible for keeping confidential the manuscripts submitted to them for review, and should never share the content of these manuscripts unless authorized explicitly and in writing by the authors, or in case of alleged research or publication misconduct.

2.2 Policy and Procedure.

- The process by which the relevant Editor-in-Chief is chosen should be clearly defined and the standards by which applications for the position are judged made clear to both members of the Publications Committee and applicants. The term of office should be clear and, in the case of NASPGHAN, a specific statement as to the possibility of a second term defined.
- Publications Committee members must disclose any potential conflict of interest which might prevent them from serving effectively on the Committee. Examples include but are not limited to: editorial services for a competing journal (excluding reviewer services); receipt of salary support from industry sources; personal conflict with the applicant for an editorial leadership position, or his/her institution. Any potential COI disclosure will be reviewed by the relevant society President who will make the final decision on an individual's eligibility for membership on the Committee
- During the selection process for the Editor-in-Chief of JPGN, any member of the Publications Committee with a potential conflict of interest that might prevent an unbiased evaluation of an application for the position will be excused from deliberations on that application.
- Being on a competing journal's editorial board may constitute a conflict of interest for a candidate for the position of Editor-in-Chief. If the Editor-in Chief desires to serve on another journal's editorial board, the request needs to be reviewed and approved by the publications committees of both NASPGHAN and ESPGHAN to make sure there is no perceived or actual conflict of interest.
- An applicant for the position of Editor-in-Chief must declare any potential conflict of interest that might have an impact on his/her ability to perform the duties of Editor. Such declaration must also include any association with organizations or journals in direct competition with JPGN for manuscripts and reviewers. The applicant must declare all financial or otherwise rewarding relationships with industry or other health care organizations in the five years prior to his/her application. Such relationships include, but are not limited to, research/salary support, consultantships, service on speakers' bureaus, *honoraria* and paid lectures.
- *The Editor-in-Chief and associate editors of JPGN should limit compensation from industry for activities such as consulting, honoraria for lectures, and data monitoring boards no more than \$25,000 (USA) and 25,000 Euros (Europe) in aggregate on any calendar year. Collaboration with industry on clinical trials for which an editor receives compensation for work relevant to the project does not count to the \$/€25,000 aggregate, as long as that compensation is given to the editor's institution (see below).*
- Editors may receive research support from industry, either through grants for investigator initiated protocols, or as principal and sub investigators from industry sponsored protocols. Such compensation should not be paid to the individual, but to that individual's academic institution. The Editor must however recuse him/herself from review of any research product involving any product manufactured by any sponsor from whom they received research support in the last 3 years. The Editor-In-

Chief must also seek a substitute Editor when he/she is an author of a submitted manuscript.

- An applicant for the position of Editor-in-Chief who has a COI must resolve any such conflict to the satisfaction of the Publications Committee prior to being appointed. Failure to do so will disqualify the individual from consideration for the position.
- Applicants for the position of Editor-in-Chief of JPGN are responsible for obtaining a DOI statement from each proposed Associate Editor at the time of the application. All such DOI statements will be reviewed by the Publications Committee. The Publications Committee is charged with monitoring the JPGN Associate Editors and JPGN Editorial Board for any potential conflict of interest and for either taking appropriate action to resolve the conflict or disqualifying the individual from being appointed.
- All financial ties over the past 2 years of Editorial Board members, including the Editor in Chief should appear in a declaration of competing interests on the Journal's website. The declaration should state the entity, the type of interest, and the date and duration of each DOI. These declarations should be reviewed and updated annually, or as soon as a new competing interest arises.
- The NASPGHAN Editor-in-Chief of JPGN is responsible for the review of manuscripts submitted to the NASPGHAN editorial office and is responsible for assuring the readership of the integrity of the paper, its authors, the reviewers, the publisher and the editorial staff in their duties associated with submission, review and publication of manuscripts.
- The ESPGHAN Editor-in-Chief of JPGN is responsible for the review of manuscripts submitted to the ESPGHAN editorial office and is responsible for assuring the readership of the integrity of the paper, its authors, the reviewers, the publisher and the editorial staff in their duties associated with submission, review and publication of manuscripts.
- The Editor-in- Chief should always consider potential COI in assessing paper submitted to the journal for publication. Conflict of interest in this instance should be defined as any relationship, personal, professional, or financial, that may interfere with the unbiased conduct of editorial duties, and/or could influence or appear to influence the decisions made in the context of the editorial process. Examples of personal COI with authors include personal relationships, students, mentees, mentors, relatives. Examples of professional COI include academic rivalry, working in same institution or research collaborations with authors. Examples of financial COI include remunerations received for consultations, honoraria, grant and research support, stock ownership or royalties from a commercial entity involved in the submitted research product. In the presence of such COI, the Editor-in-Chief should remove him/herself from the evaluation process and a substitute editor should be identified.
- The Editor-in-Chief is responsible for revising from time to time the conflict of interest directives in the instructions to authors. . All authors' declaration of interest relevant to the subject matter of the submitted manuscript should be published with the paper. In addition, all funding sources should be stated and published with the paper, along with the sponsor's role in the design, conduct, the analysis and reporting of the research. The author may lodge a complaint to the Publications Committee if

he/she feels a manuscript has not received fair review, or a conflict of interest has been alleged inappropriately to the detriment of the manuscript.

- The publications Committee will receive and review claims of misconduct on the part of the Editor, Associate Editors or Editorial Board members by authors, reviewers, staff or others associated with the review and publication of submitted manuscripts. Adjudication of complaints and responses by the Committee will be on a case by case basis and the decision of the Publications Committee will be final.

3. Policy on Conflict of Interest relating to JPGN Publications.

3.1. Principle

- Both Editors-in-Chief are responsible for ensuring that all manuscripts accepted by the editorial office for publication in JPGN are free of commercial influence or other COI.

3.2 Policy and Procedure.

- The NASPGHAN and ESPGHAN Editors-in-Chief will work closely to develop a uniform and comprehensive COI policy for manuscripts submitted to the Journal. Issues to be addressed in the COI policy include:
 - Procedures to identify and disclose a potential COI by an author.
 - Procedures to identify and deal with a potential COI by a reviewer.
 - Policy for dealing with reports or complaints regarding a COI in the review process by authors or sponsors of manuscripts.
 - Policy for dealing fairly with disparate reviews of manuscripts.
 - Policy for determining the appropriate level of contribution for individual authors on multiple author papers.
 - Policy for dealing with alleged or actual plagiarism, double publishing, falsification of data or other scientific misconduct.
 - Policy for dealing with review or publication of studies conducted under unethical circumstances.
 - Policy for obtaining permission from the parents of subjects of case reports.
 - Policy for documenting the involvement of Human Subjects Committees in the design of clinical research.
- The above-mentioned policies should follow the guidelines set by the Committee on Publication Ethics

<http://publicationethics.org/resources/guidelines>)

- All such policies and procedures should be reviewed by the NASPGHAN and ESPGHAN Ethics Committees and Publications Committees and be approved by the NASPGHAN and ESPGHAN Council prior to implementation.
- Journal policies on COI and ethics should be available on the Journal website and on the NASPGHAN and ESPGHAN websites. Regular review of policies should occur each year
- The Editors-in-Chief should present an annual report to the respective Ethics Committees on issues that have been active during the year and the decisions made.

4. Policy on Uniformity in COI and Ethical Issues for NASPGHAN and ESPGHAN Editorial Offices.

4.1. Principle.

Publications in JPGN reflect on the integrity of both NASPGHAN and ESPGHAN. The two societies should be in agreement on issues pertaining to COI and ethics in journalism in order to protect their reputation as a reliable and authoritative source of scientific information on digestive and nutritional disorders in childhood.

4.2. Policy and Procedure.

- The Publication Committees and Editors-in-Chief for NASPGHAN and ESPGHAN should strive towards a consensus on COI and ethical issues relating to publications in JPGN.
- In the event there are issues that cannot be satisfactorily resolved between the two Societies, then the policies of each should be published on the Society's websites, the JPGN website or in the printed journal.
- All policy and procedures implemented by the Editor(s) should first be approved by the respective Councils of NASPGHAN and ESPGHAN.