Tropical Biomedicine

POLICY STATEMENT ON RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT OF RESEARCH, PUBLICATION AND AUTHORSHIP

Tropical Biomedicine (TB) firmly prescribes to responsible research and publication principles guided by the policies and practices provisioned by the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE)¹ and the Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE)². The principles encompass management of arising issues on (i) research misconduct, and (ii) unethical publication and authorship.

Research misconduct can be construed as the intentional fabrication, falsification and/or plagiarism of data and information in the documentation of a research. Concealing conflict of interests, and infringing on confidentiality and authorship agreements are also acts of research misconduct.

TB considers it an unethical publication practice when these acts manifest themselves – in any ways or forms – within a manuscript intended for review and publication. Other exhibits of unethical publication include (a) submission of duplicate studies, (b) unwarranted division of a research study into smaller units with the intention to proliferate number of publications of the author (i.e., salami publication), and (c) improper authorship credits, or failure to execute the responsibilities of the primary / corresponding author.

TB is committed to safeguarding its integrity as the publication avenue of a professional society at all levels. Evidence(s) of violation of ethical publication and authorship practices will be fairly collected to probe an allegation or detection of misconduct by any stakeholders of TB including (but not limited to) editorial board members, reviewers, readers, and co-authors.

Publication fee, if has been paid, shall not be refunded in the event of retraction of the manuscript by the editorial board or the author(s) at any stage of article processing after it is accepted for publication.

¹The complete list of COPE policies and practices appear can be found on its website: https://publicationethics.org/
²The ICMJE recommendations can be found here: http://www.icmje.org/icmje-recommendations.pdf
³Authorship should commensurate the amount of contribution made by an author in the research and / or data analysis toward composition of the manuscript. Funders and mentors usually do not qualify as authors.