For all parties involved in the act of publishing in a journal edited by Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht Verlage it is necessary to agree upon standards of expected ethical behavior. Authors, journal editors, peer-reviewers and the publisher are obliged to follow the guidelines established by COPE (Committee on Publication Ethics).

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Submitted manuscripts are evaluated for their academic and intellectual value without regard to race, gender, sexual orientation, religious belief, ethnic origin, citizenship, or political philosophy of the authors. Editors and editors-in-chief are responsible for the content of a journal.

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Any referee who feels unqualified to review the research reported in a manuscript or knows that its timely review will be impossible, should immediately notify the editor-in-chief. This ensures that alternative reviewers can be contacted as soon as possible.

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Authors should not publish manuscripts describing essentially the same research in more than one journal or primary publication. This implicates that authors should not submit articles which already have been published in other journals. Parallel submission of the same manuscript to more than one journal constitutes unethical publishing behavior and will not be tolerated. However, there is one exception: the publishing of the same article (as well as translations and clinical guidelines) in multiple journals can be justified if the editors-in-chief of the journal in question give their consent, data and interpretation match the results from the first publication and the first publication is mentioned in the second one.

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Authorship should be limited to those who have made a significant contribution to the conception, design, execution, or interpretation of the reported study. All those who have made significant contributions should be listed as co-authors. Where there are others who have participated in certain substantive aspects of the research project, they should be named in an Acknowledgement section. The corresponding author should ensure that all appropriate co-authors (according to the above definition) and no inappropriate co-authors are included in the author list of the manuscript, and that all co-authors have seen and approved the final version of the paper and have agreed to its submission for publication.
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