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Each author must submit a completed ICMJE Potential Conflicts of Interest form. Authors are required to disclose any financial or other substantive conflict of interest that might be suspected of influencing the outcomes reported in the manuscript. The Editorial Office checks the Acknowledgements section of the manuscript against the COI disclosure forms to ensure consistency.

In the event that a potential conflict of interest is detected or suspected, the Editor requests clarification from the author. In the event that a conflict was not disclosed, the journal may publish a Correction or an Erratum in a subsequent issue.

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Recusal is the cornerstone of preventing bias from entering the assessment of the validity and value of the results of scientific research. When individuals are invited to review manuscripts, they must recuse themselves should they have any conflict of interest resulting from competitive, collaborative, or other relationships or connections with any of the authors, companies, or institutions involved with the manuscript. If an invited reviewer believes that he or she does have a potential conflict of interest associated with a particular manuscript, he or she informs the journal, which then secures a different reviewer. If an Editor or Associate Editor is not satisfied that a submitted review is without bias due to COI, further review will be undertaken, in order to ensure the unbiased assessment of the manuscript.

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Associate Editors submit to the Journal Office, and Editors to the Infectious Diseases Society of America, an annual disclosure statement of their financial and other relationships that could lead to conflicts of interest. These statements are updated during the course of a year if there are changes to the list of relationships.

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When an Editor recuses himself, a Co-editor, Deputy Editor, or Associate Editor is asked to consider the manuscript.

Resources

Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE): www.publicationethics.org

International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE): www.icmje.org

World Association of Medical Editors (WAME): www.wame.org