

Policy Guidelines

Conflicts of Interest and Financial Disclosures

Authors are required to report potential conflicts of interest, including specific financial interests relevant to the subject of their manuscript, in the Acknowledgment section of the manuscript.

The authors declare that no close relatives (including spouses, partners, parents, children, or siblings) have any financial, professional, or personal interests that could have influenced the research or its outcomes.” They are also expected to provide detailed information about any relevant activities, relationships, and affiliations (other than those affiliations listed in the title page of the manuscript) including employment, affiliation, funding and grants received or pending, consultancies, honoraria or payment, speakers’ bureaus, stock ownership or options, expert testimony, royalties, donation of medical equipment, or patents planned, pending, or issued.

Human & Animal Rights Policy

For human participant studies, the study methodology must comply with the Code of Ethics of the World Medical Association (Declaration of Helsinki). Research studies comprising human subjects must ensure that any identifiable markers such as patients' names, initials, hospital or social security numbers, x-rays, MRIs, images, videos, charts, etc., are removed unless consent is obtained not to do so in a specific instance.

Research studies composed of animal subjects must adhere to the [ARRIVE guidelines](#) and comply with the U.S. Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals and, as applicable, the Animal Welfare Act to ensure ethical and legal procedures are followed.

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Authors are expected to state in the Methods section the manner in which informed consent was obtained from the study participants (i.e., oral or written) and whether participants received a stipend. Authors of research studies involving humans must also cite the institutional or regulatory policy for IRB determination and indicate if the data are deidentified and publicly available or protected by prior consent or privacy safeguards.

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