



ASN Scientific Misconduct Policy (nephSAP)

The American Society of Nephrology (ASN) upholds the highest standards of academic publishing. The work of authors and reviewers contributes to our common aim of understanding the latest advances in basic, clinical, and translational research. In very rare instances, ASN may receive notification or allegations of misconduct related to material submitted to or published in nephSAP. Such questions or concerns may include but are not limited to questions regarding plagiarism, duplicate publication, access to data, integrity of data, or undeclared conflicts of interest. This policy sets forth ASN's process for responding to such notifications or allegations.

Questions or concerns raised prior to final decision or granting of award:

- If a reviewer, concerned co-author or sponsor, or other third party raises a question or concern about a nephSAP submission that is then undergoing review, and the nephSAP Editorial Director agrees, ASN will follow the following protocol:
 - a. The Chair of the ASN Continuous Professional Development Committee will work with the nephSAP Editorial Director to review the question or concern to determine if it can be addressed immediately or needs to be raised with the author.
 - b. If the Editorial Director and Committee Chair deem the question or concern to be unresolved following the procedure in **a.** above, ASN will notify the author and request a response to the question or concern from the author. It is the responsibility of author to inform all others involved with the submission of the questions or concerns raised. The author will have *5 business days* from the date of ASN's notice to respond, unless the reviewing Committee Chair and Editorial Director grant additional time due to extenuating circumstances.
 - c. If the reviewing Committee Chair and Editorial Director determine that the author's response is not satisfactory (or if the author fails to respond to their request), or if ASN is presented with evidence that raises serious concerns regarding the integrity of the submission, the reviewing Committee Chair and Editorial Director will notify the ASN Executive Vice President. The ASN Executive Vice President will determine ASN's response and course of action, which will be guided by, among other things, established ethical guidelines and applicable law.
- The course of action may include, but is not limited to, any or all of the following:
 - a. rejecting the submission;
 - b. prohibiting future submissions from the author to ASN for a specified period of time;
 - c. reporting ASN'S concerns to the author's institution;
 - d. reporting ASN'S concerns to any other funding agency named in the acknowledgements, and/or
 - e. reporting ASN'S concerns to the Office of Research Integrity or other authorized investigative agency.

The Chair and Editorial Director may, at their discretion, keep the ASN President informed of all developments.

Concerns or questions raised subsequent to final decision or granting of award:

- If a question or concern is raised regarding nephSAP material post publication, ASN will follow the following protocol:
 - a. The question or concern will be presented to the nephSAP Editorial Director to determine if it can be addressed immediately or needs to be raised with the author. If the Editorial Director determines the issue needs to be raised with the author, ASN will notify the author and request a response to the stated question or concern. It is the responsibility of the author to inform all others involved with the proposed project of the questions or concerns raised. The author will have 5 *business days* from the date of ASN's notice to respond, unless the Editorial Director grants additional time due to extenuating circumstances.
 - b. If the Editorial Director determines that the author's response is not satisfactory (or if the author fails to respond to the reviewing Editorial Director's request), or if ASN is presented with evidence that raises serious concerns regarding the integrity of the grant application, the Editorial Director will notify the Continuous Professional Development Committee Chair and the ASN Executive Vice President. The ASN Executive Vice President will determine ASN's response and course of action, which will be guided by, among other things, established ethical guidelines and applicable law.
- The course of action may include, but is not limited to, any or all of the following:
 - a. reporting ASN's concerns to the author's institutions;
 - b. prohibiting future submissions from the author to ASN for a specified period of time;
 - c. reporting ASN's concerns to any other funding agency involved with the project;
 - d. reporting ASN's concerns to the Office of Research Integrity or other authorized investigative agency;
 - e. publishing a statement of concern;
 - f. issuing a retraction;
 - g. notifying any other publication if necessary.