

# **INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & PLAGIARISM POLICY**

## **Annals of Sahiwal Medical College (ASLMC)**

### **Purpose and Objectives**

The Annals of Sahiwal Medical College (ASLMC) is committed to promoting academic integrity, originality, and high-quality scholarly publications. This policy provides a clear framework for the creation, ownership, protection, and ethical use of intellectual property associated with manuscripts submitted to the journal.

The objectives of this policy are to:

- Promote originality, innovation, and ethical scholarly work among authors, reviewers, and editors.
- Protect the intellectual contributions of authors and the journal.
- Ensure proper attribution, copyright compliance, and avoidance of plagiarism.
- Safeguard the journal's academic credibility and reputation.
- Regulate the proper use of the ASLMC name, logo, and published materials.

### **Definitions**

For the purpose of this policy:

- **Intellectual Property (IP):** Includes all scholarly works, articles, reviews, case reports, images, and research data submitted to ASLMC.
- **Journal:** Refers to Annals of Sahiwal Medical College (ASLMC).
- **Authors:** Individuals submitting manuscripts to ASLMC, including faculty, students, researchers, or professionals.
- **Editors and Reviewers:** Individuals responsible for evaluating, reviewing, and managing submitted manuscripts.
- **Plagiarism:** Using another person's work, ideas, or words without proper attribution.
- **Copyright:** Legal protection for the expression of original scholarly work, granting exclusive rights for use and distribution.
- **Publisher Rights:** The journal's rights to publish, distribute, and archive submitted manuscripts.

### **Scope and Application**

This policy applies to all manuscripts, research articles, case reports, reviews, images, and supplementary material submitted to ASLMC. It covers all authors, reviewers, and editorial board members.

### **Ownership of Intellectual Property**

- Authors retain **copyright** for their manuscripts but grant the journal a **non-exclusive license** to publish, distribute, and archive the work.
- By submitting to ASLMC, authors confirm that their work is original, has not been published elsewhere, and does not infringe on any third-party rights.
- The journal reserves the right to use submitted content for **educational, archival, and promotional purposes**.

### **Plagiarism and Ethical Standards**

- Manuscripts must be free from plagiarism. ASLMC uses **plagiarism detection software** to screen submissions.
- All sources must be properly cited. Direct quotations, data, images, and tables must include references and permissions if applicable.
- Any detected plagiarism or ethical misconduct may result in **rejection, retraction, or reporting to the author's institution**.

### **Copyright and Licensing**

- Authors retain copyright of their work but grant ASLMC the right to publish and distribute.
- Published articles may be made available under **Creative Commons licenses** or similar agreements to ensure ethical sharing.
- Reproduction or redistribution of ASLMC content requires prior permission from the journal.

### **Editorial Oversight**

The ASLMC editorial board is responsible for:

- Ensuring compliance with intellectual property and plagiarism policies.
- Evaluating originality and ethical standards of submissions.
- Protecting the journal's academic and reputational interests.
- Approving agreements and licenses related to published content.

### **Dispute Resolution**

- Any disputes regarding authorship, intellectual property, or plagiarism will first be resolved by the **editorial board**.
- If unresolved, the matter may be escalated to the **Director of Research of Sahiwal Medical College**, whose decision shall be **final and binding**.

### **Research Data and Supplementary Material**

- Authors must retain the original research data supporting submitted manuscripts.
- Data sharing with the journal may be required for **peer review or verification purposes**, subject to confidentiality agreements.
- Permission must be obtained for the use of third-party data, images, or materials.