

PUBLICATION ETHICS AND MALPRACTICE STATEMENT

Annals of Sahiwal Medical College (ASLMC)

The Annals of Sahiwal Medical College (ASLMC) is committed to maintaining the highest standards of scholarly publishing. Our aim is to provide authors, reviewers, and readers with clear guidance on our policies, ethical standards, and professional practices.

1. Website

Our journal website is designed to provide clear and transparent information about ASLMC and its publication practices. It includes:

- A detailed Aims & Scope statement, defining the readership and topics we cover.
- Clear guidance on what types of manuscripts we consider for publication, including authorship criteria.
- Information regarding our policy against multiple submissions or redundant publications.
- ISSNs displayed prominently for both print and electronic formats.

2. Journal Name

The name “Annals of Sahiwal Medical College” is unique and reflects the journal’s affiliation. We ensure it is not easily confused with any other journal and accurately represents our institution.

3. Peer Review Process

- All manuscripts submitted to ASLMC undergo peer review by experts in the relevant field who are not part of the editorial team.
- Our website clearly explains the peer review process and related policies.
- While we aim for timely reviews, we do not guarantee acceptance or unrealistically short review times.

4. Ownership and Management

- The journal’s ownership and management details are clearly provided on the website.
- Our journal and publisher names are transparent and do not mislead potential authors or readers regarding ownership.

5. Governing Body

- ASLMC has an editorial board consisting of recognized experts in the field.
- Full names, affiliations, and positions of all board members are available on our website.

6. Editorial Team and Contact Information

- Complete names, affiliations, and contact information for the editorial team are displayed on our website.
- Correspondence can be directed to our editorial office at the address provided online.

7. Copyright and Licensing

- Authors retain copyright of their work, but ASLMC holds the right to publish, distribute, and archive manuscripts.
- Licensing details, including Creative Commons options if applicable, are clearly indicated in the Author Guidelines and on published articles.
- Policies on sharing accepted manuscripts or published articles on third-party platforms are clearly stated.

8. Author Fees

- Any fees related to manuscript submission or publication are transparently listed on the website.
- If no fees are charged, this is also clearly mentioned.

9. Handling Research Misconduct

- ASLMC takes all reasonable steps to prevent and identify research misconduct, including plagiarism, citation manipulation, or data fabrication.
- We follow COPE guidelines (or equivalent) for addressing allegations of misconduct.
- Editors and publishers do not encourage, condone, or knowingly allow misconduct in any form.

10. Publication Ethics

Our journal follows strict ethical standards, which include:

- Clear policies on authorship and contributorship.
- Procedures for handling complaints and appeals.
- Transparency regarding conflicts of interest or competing interests.
- Guidelines for data sharing and reproducibility.
- Policies on ethical oversight and research approval.
- Guidelines on intellectual property and copyright.
- Options for post-publication discussions, corrections, or retractions.

11. Publishing Schedule

The journal publishes two issues per year, and this schedule is clearly indicated on the website.

12. Access

- ASLMC clearly states how readers can access journal content, whether through open access, subscription, or pay-per-view.

13. Archiving

- We have a robust plan for electronic archiving and preservation of content, including access via platforms such as PubMed Central, ensuring the journal remains accessible even if it ceases publication.

14. Revenue Sources

- All sources of revenue, including author fees, subscriptions, advertising, and institutional support, are clearly outlined.
- Editorial decisions are never influenced by fees or revenue considerations.