

## I. Introduction

### A. Definition of “specific inappropriate acts” in the publication process

The author(s) has/have submitted a manuscript to the *American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology* or has had an article published in the Journal that violates the policies and/or the procedures established by the Journal and may be subject to specified sanctions. All policies of the *American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology*, particularly with regard to Conflicts of Interest, Inappropriate Acts, and IRB approval, also apply to abstracts presented at Society Meetings and published in this Journal as a result of the proceedings.

All such manuscripts or articles are categorized under specific headings in this monograph. Under some of the headings, various types of manuscripts or articles received or published *in the past* are described in detail in an attempt to be helpful. These would be classified as inappropriate acts after the established policies and procedures of the Journal have been published and authors have had sufficient time to read them. The sanctions to be applied will indicate the seriousness of the violation.

### B. What are not to be considered inappropriate acts

It is essential to list what are not to be considered as inappropriate acts in submitted manuscripts or articles. These are honest mistakes, honest errors, sloppy research reports, and questionable scientific judgment of experimental design and of conclusions of research results. It is the responsibility of the Journal to distinguish between errors and deficiencies of these types and the actual or suspected inappropriate acts in submitted manuscripts or articles.

The Editors and the Publisher of *AJOG* have revised the policy and procedures to address allegations of inappropriate acts in the publication process. Accordingly, such issues will be assessed by the Editors and referred to the sponsoring Institution for review, inquiry, and/or investigation, and disposition.

*AJOG* will make decisions about retraction of published work based upon evaluation of the information provided by the Institution and other information available to the Journal.

Authors will be asked to identify the sponsoring Institution which is responsible for the integrity of the scientific work and compliance with the regulations to protect human subjects and animals from research risk(s). When the research is sponsored from multiple Institutions, the authors will be asked to identify the Institution which will take the lead in handling a potential allegation.

If the sponsoring Institution does not have a policy to deal with allegations of scientific misconduct or noncompliance with regulatory issues referred to above, the matter will be referred to a Committee appointed by the Editors.” ■