

Joint Statement on Enhancing the Scientific Ethics to Create Excellent Atmosphere for Scientific and Technical Journals of Nationwide Associations under the China Association for Science and Technology

The scientific journals sponsored by nationwide associations under the China Association for Science and Technology (CAST) form a representative group of Chinese scientific journals. We publish this Joint Statement officially to enhance the scientific ethics, promote the research integrity, uphold the seriousness and reputation of academic activities, create excellent academic atmosphere for scientific journals, improve the professional ethic level of researchers, editors and publishers in China, guarantee the sound development of science and technology in China, and make a positive contribution to the construction of innovative country.

Emphasizing the construction of scientific ethics and propagating innovative spirit

All journals are aiming at propagating innovative spirit, persist in exploration and innovation, promote academic exchange, and serve research and production, actively promote scientific and technological progress. We will strive to disseminate scientific knowledge, lead to be the practitioner of advanced culture; emphasize scientific and technological personnel-training, promote the scientific quality and innovation abilities of qualified professional technicians; enhance the cultivation in occupational ethics, call for seeking the truth, working honestly and being united and collaborative, improve the scientific integrity consciousness, and work actively to promote the development of scientific and technology in China.

Emphasizing the education of academic integrity and standardizing academic behaviors

Academic journals should respect the authors' rights and benefits. We refuse to publish articles with author name arrangement disputes, no citation of previous papers, simultaneous submissions to different journals, plagiarism, fabrication and selective reporting of data etc. Once the unethical actions are disclosed, the journal itself or combining related journals under CAST will send the author a written warning, refuse to publish the author's articles or even send case notification to the author's organizations according to the severity of the unethical conduct. For the slight cases, a 3 to 5 years ban on submissions of the author is applied; and for the serious cases, the author's unethical actions will be posted in a proper manner, and a timeless ban on submission is applied. Furthermore, case notification will be sent to related project funders. The case will be delivered over to related authorities to deal with. The institution with several unethical conducts will be requested to preliminarily review their manuscripts before submission. If the leaders of some institution show unethical actions, the superior of the institution will be informed.

Emphasizing the construction of editor group and strictly meeting editor professional ethics

The editorial board and reviewers should play a very important role in ensuring the quality of the papers to be published through strictly meeting the standards for peer review and judging the submitted research objectively and fairly. We should establish very clear system for review, retraction and announcement, and maintain the integrity and accuracy of the academic record. Whenever it is recognized that fabrication of materials, plagiarism or significant errors is

discovered, it must be corrected promptly by publishing retraction, correction of mistakes and public apology letter. The databases in which the article has been indexed in must be informed to withdraw the article. Whenever it is recognized that reviewer makes private gain via review, or uses unpublished information, except with the consent of the author, the reviewer must be warned, disqualified from the peer review forever or publicly disclosed according to the severity.

Emphasizing the construction of the author group and observing the professional ethics

Only persons who have significantly contributed to the research should be listed as authors. All coauthors should be responsible for the article. Before submission, all coauthors must have seen the final version of the paper, ensure the accuracy and reliability of the research results and no misconduct, and agree with the author arrangement with signature. Other individuals or institutions who have contributed to the study should be acknowledged. Funding source except for secret projects should be indicated in the article. Authors should indicate or cite clearly previous works. Whenever problems are recognized in unpublished or published papers, authors are obliged to make correction or propose retraction.

CAST would like to work together with scientific journals from other organizations to enhance the construction of scientific ethics, emphasize the academic integrity, create an excellent environment, and promote a healthy development of science and technology and social progress.