

Journal of MMIJ Guideline for Fair Peer Review

The Editorial Committee of the Journal of MMIJ

Dear peer reviewers:

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to you for taking the time out of your busy schedule to peer review the manuscripts that are submitted for publication in the Journal of MMIJ. Your fair peer review will help maintain the quality of the journal and also contribute to further improving its quality and reputation. For this reason, we have listed below several key points that we would like you to keep in mind in the peer review process. Please read them before starting the peer review and evaluation of the manuscripts and cooperate in ensuring a fair peer review.

1. Ensuring neutrality with the author(s): Please carefully check that you have no conflict of interest with the author(s). Relationships that may present a conflict of interest include, for example, collaborators, teacher-student relationship, personal connections such as classmates and laboratory alumni, and relatives. If you have any doubts about a conflict of interest, please contact our editorial staff immediately. If there is a clear conflict of interest, please decline the peer review.

2. Consistency with your field of specialty: If you have accepted to peer review a manuscript, but after reading it, you find it so far removed from your field of specialty that you cannot provide appropriate reviewer's comments, please contact our editorial staff immediately.

3. Ensuring confidentiality: Please be careful not to disclose the name of the peer reviewer or the results of the peer review to others. Please ensure the confidentiality of the manuscript that you have accepted as a peer reviewer, so that no part of the contents of the manuscript will be disclosed to others.

4. Ensuring prevention of research misconduct: Publishing a manuscript that is suspected of plagiarism, fabrication, or falsification in the journal will greatly damage the credibility of MMIJ. The decision to publish a manuscript is the responsibility of the Editorial Committee of the Journal of MMIJ, but we ask for your cooperation in preventing improper papers from being published by mistake. If you suspect that the contents of the manuscript are almost identical to a publication that has already been published, or if you suspect fabrication or falsification of data, figures, or tables, or if any of these acts of research misconduct is conclusive, please report it to our editorial staff immediately.

5. Cooperation in preventing omission of references: Properly citing previous studies related to the contents of the manuscript is clearly the responsibility of the author(s), but we ask for your cooperation in preventing omission of references within the reasonable extent.

6. Cooperation in protecting human rights and complying with laws and regulations: If the manuscript contains personal information that requires special consideration or contents that require approval by an ethics committee (e.g. genetic modification experiments), please check if the manuscript contains a statement indicating that appropriate procedures have been followed.

7. Ensuring maintenance of originality: Please do not use any contents of the manuscript you have reviewed for your own research until the manuscript is published in the Journal of MMIJ or, until it is published in another journal after having been rejected by the Journal of MMIJ. If you print out the manuscript for review, please keep the printed manuscript in a safe place or dispose of it with care so that no one else can see it.

It should be noted that, regarding the items 4, 5, and 6 above, the authors are ultimately responsible for the contents of the manuscript and the peer reviewers will not be held responsible for any problems that may arise.

Established on December 21, 2020