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## Editorial

# Publications in ortho-rheumatology – The ethical issues

Sanjay Keshkar<sup>1\*</sup>, Manish Khanna<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Dept. of Orthopaedics, ESIC Medical College & Hospital Joka,, Kolkata, West Bengal, India

<sup>2</sup>Dept. of Orthopaedics, Dr KNS MIMS, Barabanki, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India



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### ABSTRACT

Indian publications in Ortho-rheumatology are increasing in global scenario but the ethical issues of some articles are questionable. This editorial is an insight (author's perspective) to highlight ethical issues and also the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) to aware the researchers and publishers for quality publication.

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## 1. Introduction

Orthopaedic rheumatology is subspecialty of Orthopaedics which mainly deals with medico-surgical conditions involving joints, soft tissues, and allied connective tissue disorders.<sup>1</sup> India is flooded with Orthopaedic and Ortho-rheumatology patients and hence no dearth of clinical material.<sup>2</sup> Also, publication in scientific journal is one of the criteria for promotion of faculty working in medical colleges (as per National Medical Commission).<sup>3</sup> Hence Indian publications are on rising trend in global scenario.<sup>4</sup> Same is true for Ortho-rheumatology publication also. This editorial is an insight (author's perspective) to highlight ethical issues and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) to aware the researchers and publishers for quality publication.

## 2. Ethical Issues of Publication

Publication Ethics is an important issue and one must know about its importance, components and dealing with unethical publication / misconduct. Publication ethics are rules of conduct generally agreed upon when publishing results of scientific research. It forbids the author to copy re-

publication of another's work without proper credit & vice-versa to protect your work to copy.<sup>5</sup>

Most of the Journals follow the COPE's (Committee on Publication Ethics) Best Practice Guidelines.<sup>6,7</sup> COPE's Guidelines has clearly mentioned the ethical issues and duties of Editors, Reviewers & Authors.<sup>8</sup>

## 3. Intellectual Property (IP) & IP Right (IPR)

Intellectual property (IP) is collective name for ownership of the results of man's creative mind (referring to Innovations / inventions, literary and artistic works and different signs of distinction i.e. product design and titles) that serve for commercial purposes.

Intellectual property Right (IPR) is governed by WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organization) which was established by the WIPO Convention in 1967.<sup>9</sup> It promotes the protection of IP throughout the world. The intellectual property can be protected by two popular ways; (i) Copyrights which gives authors the right to protect their work (e.g. databases, reference works, books, technical drawings, and others) or by. By copyrighting others cannot use it without author's permission. (ii) Industrial property rights (IPR) which gives inventors / researchers the right to protect their inventions / research product e.g. trademarks,

\* Corresponding author.

E-mail address: [s\\_keshkar@yahoo.co.in](mailto:s_keshkar@yahoo.co.in) (S. Keshkar).

patents.

#### 4. Recommendation

In global scenario, Indian publications in Ortho-rheumatology are increasing. It is important for all concerned in the act of publishing (author, journal editor, peer reviewer & the publisher) to follow the ethical issues & ethical standards for quality publication.

#### 5. Conflict of Interest


None.

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#### Author's biography

**Sanjay Keshkar**, Professor & HOD  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3326-0760>

**Manish Khanna**, Dean Academics & Professor (Orthopaedics)  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2890-869X>

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