COI, Oh My! The Current Conflict of Interest Landscape and the Potential Role of Information Professionals in Supporting Research Quality

Donna S. Gibson, Director of Library Services; Robin O'Hanlon, Associate Librarian, User Services;
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center Library

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center 1884

Background

In 2018, author conflict of interest (COI) controversies made the headlines, bringing this topic to the forefront of the scientific community. COI also became a topic of conversation for information professionals. We explored this issue and uncovered the variability in publishers' guidelines and potential challenges authors may face in navigating the COI landscape. By understanding the complexities of COI as an aspect of the scholarly communications process, information professionals can play a key role in supporting research quality and transparency.
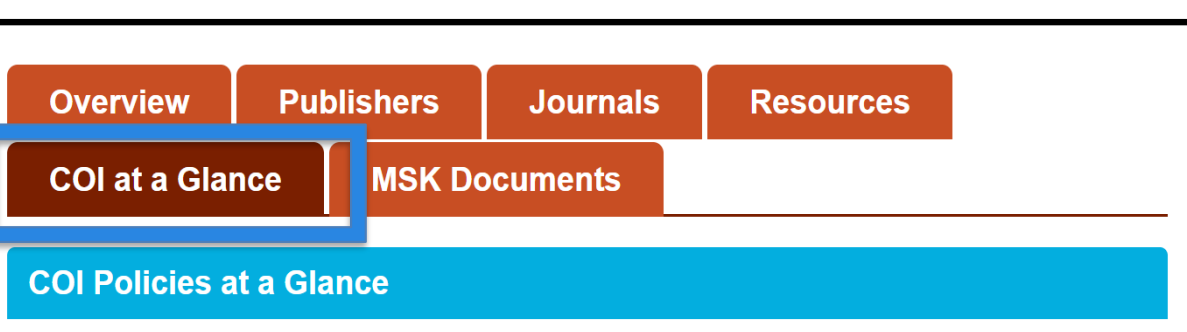
Description

Before developing our support service, information was gathered regarding the scholarly communication environment at our Institution; focusing on the journals that our researchers submit their manuscripts to most frequently and how these publishers inform authors about COI requirements.

After compiling the COI guidelines for the top 20 journals/publishers, a chart was developed displaying relevant characteristics including: COI guideline visibility (how many clicks to their policy), whether the guidelines were specific to the publisher or at the journal level, ease of submission (was there a separate COI submission form), if they support the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) recommendations, and where in the manuscript submission process do authors provide COI statements.

Outcome

The Library staff believe this resource will help enhance COI best practices for all authors at our Institution and beyond. We plan to evaluate the journals each year to ensure that this LibGuide showcase the titles and publishers that MSK authors published in most frequently. We will update this resource to address emerging standards and related guidelines to support compliance and research transparency, and leverage the LibGuide's content as a launching pad for opportunities for librarian outreach, discussion, and education.
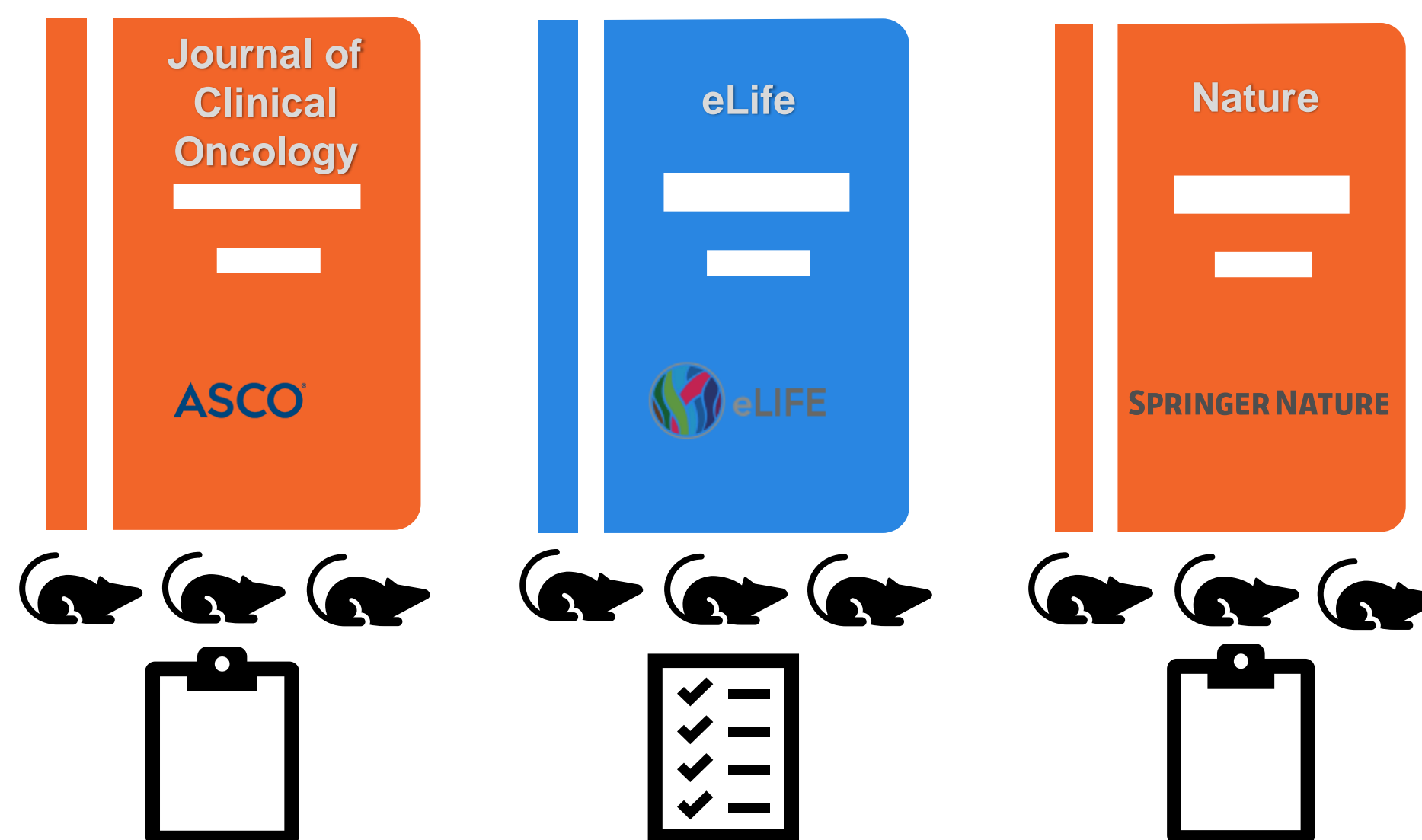
In Depth: "COI at a Glance" Tab

| Overview | Publishers | Journals | Resources |

COI at a Glance | MSK Documents

COI Policies at a Glance

COI at a Glance

Chart representing top journals for the MSK community with key categories.

Memorial Sloan Kettering Library
LibGuides

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center Library / LibGuides / Responsible Authorship: Conflict of Interest (COI) / Overview

Responsible Authorship: Conflict of Interest (COI): Overview
Understand responsible authorship practices. This guide focuses on Conflict of Interest and outlines the journals/publishers that the MSK author community submit their research manuscripts to for publication.

Overview | Publishers | Journals | Resources | COI at a Glance | MSK Documents

Overview - Conflict of Interest

A research publication provides the standard route to disseminate research findings within the scientific and medical community, and beyond. When a manuscript is submitted for publication, this action carries with it social and ethical responsibilities on the part of the author(s).

Conflict of Interest (COI) statements are required from authors and adds to research transparency and addresses any potential concerns of research bias based on financial or personal gains. Financial disclosures can include compensation for expert opinions, consultation fees or any long-standing consulting agreement, honoraria, stock options/ownership, or pending patent applications. Full disclosure would include grants or industry-sponsored funding. By acknowledging these sources, the author(s) can avoid any criticism of trying to conceal potential COI.

This LibGuide provides an overview of the top publishers MSK authors work with and the journals they most frequently submit their manuscripts to for publication. In addition, helpful resources have been provided along with MSK's policy on COI and guidance for COI statements to aid our authors in their scholarly communication activities.

For questions or additional information, don't hesitate to reach out to the the following individuals.

Manuscript Submission to Journals and their COI Requirements:
* Donna Gibson, Director of Library Services
* Robin O'Hanlon, Associate Librarian, User Services

Journal COI Requirements and MSK Conflict of Interest Program:
* Julia M. Campbell (campbej3@mskcc.org), Senior Director, Conflict of Interest Program, Corporate Compliance and Internal Audit

MSK Authorship Guidelines (requirements/criteria for authorship):
* Debra Schaller-Demers (schalled@mskcc.org), Senior Director, Research Outreach and Compliance, Research and Technology Management

Acknowledgement of Financial Support / COI Disclosure

The following is a sample acknowledgement.

Dr. [YOUR NAME], [YOUR TITLE, e.g. Attending Physician], Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, has received financial support related to this research from [NAME OF COMPANY OR ORGANIZATION] for service as [YOUR ROLE, e.g. scientific advisor, board member, speaker, consultant, etc.]

NOTE: The acknowledgement should consider not only service but whether other compensation was in the form of a grant, philanthropy/gift, stock options/equity, patent/licensing royalties, travel, etc.

For Help, Contact:
Donna Gibson
ask a Librarian
Contact:
Reference: 212-639-7439
Work: 212-639-2109
Mobile: 646-229-7383
Social:

For Help, Contact:
Robin O'Hanlon
Email Me
ask a Librarian
Contact:
Reference: 212-639-7439
Office: 212-639-3440
Social:

Last Updated: Apr 1, 2019 2:07 PM | URL: https://libguides.mskcc.org/responsibleauthorship_coi | Print Page | Login to LibApps / Report a problem.
Subjects: Author Tools, Education & Training | Tags: COI, Conflict of Interests, Journal, Publisher, Responsible Authorship

http://libguides.mskcc.org/responsibleauthorship_coi

Journal of Clinical Oncology — ASCO

eLife — eLIFE

Nature — SPRINGER NATURE

Tab Content

Overview
Key contacts and sample COI statement and acknowledgement of financial support statement.

Publishers
Inclusion criteria was based on a five year analysis of where our authors publish. Links to publisher homepages and publisher COI policies were included.

Journals
Inclusion criteria was based on the scholarly periodicals that are represented in our core grant or that the MSK author community most frequently publish in. Links to journal homepages and COI policies were included.

Resources
Section highlights author guidelines, recommendations, best practices and COI policies and tools (e.g. International Committee of Medical Journal Editors standard, Committee of Publication Ethics standards, Convey).

MSK Documents
Related content and link to MSK Policy on Financial Conflict of Interest & Conflict of Commitment. This section will continue to grow over time.

Legend

Guideline Visibility – Number of mouse clicks from the journal home page to the journal's COI policy

Author Form – Is there a COI author form available?

Standards – Journal supports ICMJE or COPE Reference Standards