



**ACPSEM**

Australasian College of Physical Scientists & Engineers in Medicine

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# **ACPSEM Policy for the Management of the Journal of Engineering and Physical Sciences in Medicine**

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## Policy Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline the responsibilities of the ACPSEM Board and the editorial independence policy, applicable to the management of *the Journal of Engineering and Physical Sciences in Medicine*.

## Responsibilities of the ACPSEM Board

1. It is the responsibility of the ACPSEM Board to appoint and dismiss the editor of the Journal of EPSM (the editor)
2. The ACPSEM will provide the editor, at the time of their appointment, with a contract that clearly states their rights and duties, authority, the general terms of their appointment, and mechanisms for resolving conflict.
3. The ACPSEM reserves the right to assess the editor's performance using mutually agreed-upon measures, including but not necessarily limited to readership, manuscript submissions and handling times, and other journal metrics.
4. As at 23/08/2019 the ACPSEM Board recognises that there are no such mutually agreed measures in place.
5. The ACPSEM will only dismiss the editor for substantial reasons, such as scientific misconduct, disagreement with the long-term editorial direction of the journal, inadequate performance by agreed-upon performance metrics, or inappropriate behaviour that is incompatible with a position of trust and or violates the ACPSEM's Code of Conduct
6. In accordance with recommendation of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors<sup>1</sup>, appointments and dismissals will be based on evaluations provided by a panel of independent experts to the Board of the ACPSEM. This reflects the high value society places on freedom of speech within science and because it protects the responsibility and ability of editors to challenge the status quo in ways that may conflict with the interests of journal owners.

## Editorial Independence

1. The ACPSEM adopts the World Association of Medical Editors' definition of editorial freedom which holds that editors have full authority over the entire editorial content of their journal and the timing of publication of that content.
2. The ACPSEM Executive (Board and CEO) will not interfere in the evaluation, selection, scheduling, or editing of individual papers and articles either directly or by creating an environment that strongly influences decisions.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.icmje.org/recommendations/browse/roles-and-responsibilities/journal-owners-and-editorial-freedom.html>

3. The editor should base editorial decisions on the validity of the work and its importance to the journal's readers and is free to express critical but responsible views without fear of retribution, even if these views conflict with other goals of the ACPSEM.
4. The ACPSEM Board requires the editor to establish and maintain an independent editorial advisory board to help the editor establish and maintain editorial policy.
5. The Journal's Editorial Policy should be published on the Journal's website and be available via links to the ACPSEM website.
6. The editor should also seek to engage a broad and diverse array of authors, reviewers, deputy editors and editorial board members.
7. The ACPSEM will ensure that appropriate insurance is in place in the event of legal action against the editors and will ensure that legal advice is available when necessary.
8. If legal issues arise, the editor should inform the ACPSEM Board Chair and CEO within 24 hours of the issue arising.
9. To secure editorial freedom in practice, the editor has direct access to the CEO and Chair of the ACPSEM Board

## **Related Policies**

- [ACPSEM Board Communication Policy](#)
- [ACPSEM Policy on Position Papers & Guidelines](#)
- [ACPSEM Volunteer Policy](#)