



### **Principles and specific ethical guidelines for reviewers**

Eternal reviewers play a fundamental, crucial part in the peer review process. However, far too often these reviewers must carry out their role with no guidance whatsoever and without a clear awareness of their ethical obligations.

#### **Basic principles to which external reviewers must adhere.**

External reviewers must:

- Only agree to review manuscripts about which they have academic expertise and will be able to provide an adequate, competent and complete assessment.
- Respect the confidentiality of the peer review process and avoid revealing any detail of the manuscript or its evaluation during and after the review process, beyond that information required by the journal itself.
- Refrain from using any information obtained during the review process for their own benefit, for that of other persons or organizations, or to jeopardize or discredit others.
- Not allow their assessment to be influenced by the origin of the manuscript or its author/s. This includes nationality, political and religious beliefs, gender and other characteristics, including commercial considerations.
- Carry out their assessment in an objective, constructive manner, steering clear of animosity and avoiding disparaging or insulting commentaries.
- Provide the journal with personal and professional information about themselves that is precise and that reflects their competence faithfully.
- Acknowledge that supplanting or impersonating another individual during the review process will be treated as a very serious case of misconduct.