Publication Policy

UKPRN: 10090350

Legal Name: Africa Health Research Organization

Trading Name: AHRO University

Our publishing support provides information and guidance to assist you publish your research

with ASPL.

Librarians

We are committed to working with libraries around the world to maximise the use of AHRO Scientific Publishing Ltd's contents. We work in collaboration with a team of librarians around the globe who form 'Council of Librarians Advisory Board'. Members of the board are consulted on books to be written by AHRO Scientific Publishing Ltd as well as journals to be initiated by the company. The aim of the company in engaging these eminent librarians is forge a working relationship that would results in the publication of valuable and relevant contents and resources that would advance scientific knowledge. For further information,

click on 'Initiative' page.

For Authors

Peer Review

ATMPH just like all AHRO Scientific Publishing Ltd journals follow 'double blind' process of peer review. Below is a description of the process:

• After submission, the editor in chief initially checks the article to analyse if it meet the journal's editorial objective. About 85% of articles are rejected at this phase.

- In phase 2, having passed the initial phase, the editor in chief or the editor selects up to 3 reviewers and ask them to evaluate the manuscript against a set of criteria.
- The editor in chief receives reviewers' recommendation and makes final decision taking into account the recommendation of the reviewers.
- There are 3 decisions: Accept, Reject, or Revise.
- If the recommendation is to revise, message is relayed to the corresponding author.
- Authors resubmit their revised paper.

• The editor in chief sends the revised paper to the same reviewers.

Below are some of the prospective questions editors ask reviewers

- Does the article or case study say something original? Does it add to the body of knowledge?
- If it is a case study, is this its first use?
- If its research is the design, methodology, theoretical approach and critical review sound?
- Are the results well-presented and have they been correctly interpreted? Is the analysis sufficiently rigorous?
- Is the submission set in the context of the wider literature?
 - Are there sufficient relevant citations?
 - o Are these well referenced and are other people's views credited?
- Is the submission accurate?
- Is any information missing or wrong?
- Does the title of the submission accurately reflect the contents?
- How useful would the submission be to a professional or student?
- Is it an example of "good practice"?
- If research-focused, could the study be replicated in other situations?

Submissions from the Editor-in-Chief will undergo independent peer-review and will be submitted to another Editor for his decision on acceptance.

Copyediting and Proofs

Articles and eBook chapters must be written in good English in a clear and correct style in order to maintain uniformity throughout the text. Articles/chapters submitted are copyedited before they are published.

Reprints

High-quality, bound/unbound, print/e-prints can be purchased for all published articles and book chapters.

Editorial Policies

Articles must be submitted by one of the authors of the manuscript, and should not be submitted by anyone on their behalf. The principal/corresponding author will be required to submit a Submission Letter along with the manuscript, on behalf of all the co-authors (if any). The author(s) will confirm that the manuscript (or any part of it) has not been published previously or is not under consideration for publication elsewhere. Furthermore, any illustration, structure or table that has been published elsewhere must be reported, and copyright permission for reproduction must be obtained.

ATMPH comply with 140C standards for open citation. The 140C standard recommends that citations are structured, separable, and open. <u>Click here</u> for details

Repository Policy

Author Self-Archiving Policy

As journals published by AHRO Scientific Publishing Ltd are an Open Access journals, authors are entitled to make their article publicly available according to the terms of the CC BY licence:

- CC BY-NC
- Authors who have published under a <u>CC BY-NC 4.0</u> licence may share and distribute their article on non-commercial websites and repositories.

Re-use guidelines for open access content

When posting, distributing or reusing Open Access articles, the journals should be clearly attributed as the original place of publication and correct citation details should be given. Authors should also deposit the URL/DOI of their published article in any repository, in addition to the Version of Record.

When making their article available according to the terms of their Open Access licence, we strongly encourage authors to deposit the Version of Record. This will guarantee that the definitive version is readily available to those accessing your article from such repositories and means that your article is more likely to be cited correctly.

As there are many ways you can share the different versions of your article as it moves through the stages towards publication a summary is provided as follows.

Article versions

Author's Original Manuscript (AOM)

This author's original manuscript before you submitted it to a journal for peer review.

Authors can share your AOM as much as you like, including via social media, on a scholarly collaboration network, your own personal website, or on a preprint server intended for non-commercial use (for example arXiv, bioRxiv, SocArXiv, etc.). Posting on a preprint server is not considered to be duplicate publication. If you do decide to post your AOM anywhere, we ask that, upon acceptance, you acknowledge that the article has been accepted for publication as follows:

This article has been accepted for publication in Annals of Tropical Medicine & Public Health'.

Accepted manuscript (AM)

This is your article is accepted for publication it becomes the Accepted Manuscript. This version has been through the peer review process and been accepted by a journal editor. When you receive the acceptance email from the Editorial Office, keep a copy of your AM for any future posting.

Authors can post your Accepted Manuscript (AM) at any point after acceptance (this includes posting to Facebook, Google groups, and LinkedIn, plus linking from Twitter). To encourage citation of your work, we recommend that you insert a link from your posted AM to the published article with the following text, including the DOI:

"This is an Accepted Manuscript of an article published in Annals of Tropical Medicine & Public Health on [date of publication], [Article DOI]."

Version of Record (VOR)

This is the final, definitive, citable version of your paper, which has been copyedited, typeset, had metadata applied, and has been allocated a DOI (Digital Object Identifier). This is the published version.

You can share your article as follows: On publication you can link to the VOR using the DOI or you can post the article PDF on any non-commercial websites and repositories.

Connecting the different versions of your article

By the time your article is published, you may have already shared your AOM and AM in various places. It is a good idea to link these to the VOR after publication, by adding some text such as:

"This is an [Accepted Manuscript / Author's Original Manuscript] of an article published in Annals of Tropical Medicine & Public Health on [date of publication], available at [Article DOI]."

By using a link containing the DOI, article downloads, Altmetric data, and citations can all be tracked and collated. All this data can help you to assess the impact of your work. AHRO Scientific Publishing Ltd conforms to the recommendations of Sherpa Romeo. Click here

Archiving Policy

Advertising Policy

Below are our policies for advertisers:

All advertisements and commercially sponsored publications are independent from editorial decisions. AHRO Scientific Publishing Ltd does not endorse any product or service marked as an advertisement or promoted by a sponsor in AHRO Scientific Publishing Ltd publications. Editorial content is not compromised by commercial or financial interests, or by any specific arrangements with advertising clients or sponsors. AHRO Scientific Publishing Ltd reserves the right to decline any type of advertising that is damaging to the brand of AHRO Scientific Publishing Ltd or is inappropriate to the content held on the AHRO Scientific Publishing Ltd network. AHRO Scientific Publishing Ltd will not accept advertising for products or services known to be harmful to health (e.g. tobacco and alcohol products). Advertisements may not be deceptive or misleading, and must be verifiable. Advertisements should clearly identify the advertiser and the product or service being offered. Exaggerated or extravagantly worded copy will not be allowed. Advertisements will not be accepted if they appear to be indecent or offensive in either text or artwork, or if they relate to content of a personal, racial, ethnic, sexual orientation, or religious nature. Once an advertisement has been

deployed online, it will be withdrawn from the journal site at any time if the Editor(s)-in-Chief or Publisher requests its removal. AHRO Scientific Publishing Ltd will not allow any treatment-specific or drug-specific campaign to be targeted to a specific article(s) or on any page where content relates to the product(s) being advertised. (Advertisers may not link to articles using keywords; they may not target advertising for a specific product on the condition that it appear in the same location and at the same time as a specific article mentioning that product and they may not refer to an article published at the same time as the advertisement appears). All advertisements for drug-specific campaigns must comply with the relevant European and UK legislation that regulates advertising. Information about the latest legislation, as well as good practice guidelines, can be found on the MHRA website. Advertisers should make available to AHRO Scientific Publishing Ltd the marketing authorization and summary of product characteristics when submitting their advertisement. In the case of drug advertisements, the full generic name of each active ingredient should appear. Each page of an advertisement for a prescription-only medicine should be clearly labelled as intended for health professionals. All advertisements for drug specific campaigns should encourage correct and rational use and must not be misleading. Advertisements and editorial content must be clearly distinguishable. AHRO Scientific Publishing Ltd will not publish "advertorial" content, and sponsored supplements must be clearly indicated as such. If a supplement did not undergo peer review or underwent a peer review-process different from the rest of the journal that should be explicitly stated. Editorial decisions will not be influenced by current or potential sponsors and advertisers, and will not be influenced by marketing decisions. Advertisers and sponsors have no control or influence over the results of searches a user may conduct on the website by keyword or search topic. If any advert is requested outside of AHRO Scientific Publishing Ltd standard advertising positions then a request should be made to editorial who will respond with a full and final decision within two business days. Information about complaints concerning advertisements will be included in the Advertisements page. We partner with third-party advertising companies to serve ads and/or collect certain information when you visit our website. These companies may use cookies or web beacons to collect nonpersonally identifiable information [not including your name, address, email address or telephone number] during your visit to this website to help show advertisements on other websites also likely to be of interest to you. To learn more about this "behavioral advertising" practice or to opt-out of this use of your anonymous information, you can visit here

Advertising complaints policy

Please send any complaints about advertising to: info@ahroeop.org

Advertising Standards Authority (ASA)

The Advertising Standards Authority investigates complaints about published medicines advertisements and ensures compliance with the British Codes of Advertising and Sales Promotion which include a section on medicines advertising. It also monitors advertising in the press, direct marketing and sales promotion and on the Internet. Advertisements directed at health professionals are exempt from the British Codes of Advertising and Sales Promotion.

The Prescription Medicines Code of Practice Authority (PMCPA)

Complaints about the advertising of medicines supplied on prescription are considered by the <u>Prescription Medicines Code of Practice Authority</u> under the ABPI Code of Practice for the Pharmaceutical Industry. Complaints which are made under the Code about promotional activities and promotional material are considered by the Code of Practice Panel, the decisions of which can be appealed to the Code of Practice Appeal Board. Reports on completed cases are published quarterly in the Code of Practice Review.

Appeals and Complaints

Generally, the editorial decisions are not reverted. However, authors who think that their manuscript was rejected due to a misunderstanding or mistake may seek an explanation for the decision. Appeals must give sound reasoning and compelling evidence against the criticism raised in the rejection letter. A difference of opinion as to the interest, novelty, or suitability of the manuscript for the journal will not be considered as an appeal. The EIC and other relevant editors will consider the appeal and the decision thereafter taken by the journal will be deemed final. Acceptance of the manuscript is not guaranteed even if the journal agrees to reconsider the manuscript, and the reconsideration process may involve previous or new reviewers or editors and substantive revision.

Authors who wish to make a complaint should refer them to the Editor-in-Chief of the journal concerned. Complaints to the Publisher may be emailed to info@ahroeop.org

Conflict of Interest

Financial contributions to the work being reported should be clearly acknowledged, as should any potential conflict of interest.

Plagiarism Prevention

AHRO Scientific Publishing Ltd uses the Turnitin software to detect instances of overlapping and similar text in submitted manuscripts. Turnitin software checks content against a database of periodicals, the Internet, and a comprehensive article database. It generates a similarity report, highlighting the percentage of overlap between the uploaded article and the published material. Any instance of content overlap is further scrutinized for suspected plagiarism according to the publisher's Editorial Policies. AHRO Scientific Publishing Ltd allows an overall similarity of 15% for a manuscript to be considered for publication.

Copyright and License

Accepted articles can be published online for free open access. Open access publishing provides maximum dissemination of the article to the largest audience.

Copyright of print- and e-book

Editors/Authors who contribute in AHRO Scientific Publishing Ltd print- and e-Book will transfer copyright to their work to *AHRO Scientific Publishing Ltd*.

Ahead of Print

In order to provide our readers timely access to new content, articles accepted by ATMPH are posted online ahead of print publication. Articles that have been accepted for publications are peer-reviewed and copy edited but do not incorporate all correction or means it is the final version that will appear in the journal. Final, corrected articles will be published online concurrently with the release of the print issue.

HUMAN AND ANIMAL RIGHTS

All clinical investigations should be conducted according to the <u>Declaration of Helsinki</u> principles. For all manuscripts reporting data from studies involving human participants, formal review and approval by an appropriate institutional review board or ethics committee are required.

For research involving animals, the authors should indicate whether the procedures followed were in accordance with the standards set forth in the eighth edition of "Guide for the Care

and Use of Laboratory Animals" (grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/guide-for-the-care-and-use-of-laboratory-animals_prepub.pdf published by the National Academy of Sciences, The National Academies Press, Washington, D.C.).

Research Involving Animals

Research work on animals should be carried out in accordance with the NC3Rs ARRIVE Guidelines. For In Vivo Experiments, please visit https://www.nc3rs.org.uk/arrive-guidelines

Authors should clearly state the name of the approval committee, highlighting that legal and ethical approvals were obtained prior to initiation of the research work carried out on animals, and that the experiments were performed in accordance with the relevant guidelines and regulations stated below.

- US authors should cite compliance with the US National Research Council's "Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals"
- The US Public Health Service's "Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory
 Animals" and "Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals"
- UK authors should conform to UK legislation under <u>the Animals (Scientific</u>
 Procedures) Act 1986 Amendment Regulations (SI 2012/3039).
- European authors outside the UK should conform to <u>Directive 2010/63/EU</u>
- Research in animals must adhere to ethical guidelines of <u>The Basel Declaration</u> and the International Council for Laboratory Animal Science (ICLAS) has also published <u>ethical guidelines</u>.
- The manuscript must clearly include a declaration of compliance with relevant guidelines (e.g. the revised Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 in the UK and Directive 2010/63/EU in Europe) and/or relevant permissions or licences obtained by the <u>IUCN Policy Statement on Research Involving Species at Risk of Extinction</u> and the <u>Convention on the Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.</u>

Research Involving Plants

All experimental research on plants (either cultivated or wild), should comply with international guidelines. The manuscript should include a declaration of compliance of field studies with relevant guidelines and/or relevant permissions or licenses obtained by the IUCN

<u>Policy Statement on Research Involving Species at Risk of Extinction</u> and the <u>Convention on</u> the Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

Patient Consent

Compliance with the guidelines of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors www.icmje.org) is recommended, in accordance with the patient's consent for research or participation in a study as per the applicable laws and regulations regarding the privacy and/or security of personal information, including, but not limited to, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 ("HIPAA") and other U.S. federal and state laws relating to confidentiality and security of personally distinguishable evidence, the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (EU) 2016/679 and member state implementing legislation, Canada's Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act, India's Information Technology Act and related Privacy Rules, (together "Data Protection and Privacy Laws").

It is the responsibility of the author to ensure that:

- Patients' names, initials, or hospital numbers are not mentioned anywhere in the manuscript (including figures).
- Authors are responsible for obtaining the patient consent-to-disclose forms for all
 recognizable patients in photographs, videos, or other information that may be
 published in the Journal, in derivative works, or on the journal's web site and for
 providing the manuscript to the recognizable patient for review before submission.
- The consent-to-disclose form should indicate specific use (publication in the medical literature in print and online, with the understanding that patients and the public will have access) of the patient's information and any images in figures or videos, and must contain the patient's signature or that of a legal guardian along with a statement that the patient or legal guardian has been offered the opportunity to review the identifying materials and the accompanying manuscript.
- If the manuscript has an individuals' data, such as personal details, audio-video material, etc., consent should be obtained from that individual. In case of children, consent should be obtained from the parent or the legal guardian.
- A specific declaration of such approval and consent-to-disclose form must be made in the copyright letter and in a stand-alone paragraph at the end of the article especially

in the case of human studies where inclusion of a statement regarding obtaining the written informed consent from each subject or subject's guardian is a must. The original should be retained by the guarantor or the corresponding author. Editors may request to provide the original forms by fax or email.

All such case reports require by a proper consent being obtained prior to publishing

The Editor In Chief may request that authors provide documentation of the formal review and recommendation from the institutional review board or ethics committee responsible for oversight of the study. The editors reserve the right to reject manuscripts that do not comply with the above-mentioned requirements. The author will be held responsible for false statements or failure to fulfil the above-mentioned requirements.

Non-identifiable Images

Anonymous images, that do not identify the individual directly or indirectly, such as through any identifying marks or text, do not require formal consent, for example, X-rays, ultrasound images, pathology slides or laparoscopic images.

In case consent is not obtained, concealing the identity through eye bars or blurring the face would not be acceptable.

Conclusion

- Author(s) and Reviewers must be informed in case of misinterpretation or mishandling of International Acceptable Standards
- A strict notice should be sent to the author and reviewer to avoid future unethical misconduct
- An Editorial on the reported misconduct should be published or official notice of unethical behaviour should be posted on the website
- Official letter about this misconduct should be issued to the Head of Departments,
 Funding Agencies of the accused author and the reviewer, as well as Abstracting & Indexing Agencies
- Where required, retraction and withdrawal of publication may be undertaken from the Publisher's journal in discussion with the Head of the Department of the author or reviewer, and other higher authorities should be informed

The Publisher may impose restrictions for some period on future publications from the accused author in the journals

Errata and Corrections in Published Articles

Authors and readers are encouraged to notify the Editor-in-Chief if they find errors in published content, authors' names and affiliations or if they have reasons for concern over the legitimacy of a publication. In such cases the journal will publish an ERRATUM in consultation with Editor-in-Chief and authors of the article, and/or replace or retract the article.

Article Withdrawal

Articles in Press (articles that have been accepted for publication or published as E-pub Ahead of Schedule but which have not been formally published with volume/issue/page information) that include errors, or are determined to violate the publishing ethics guidelines such as multiple submission, fake claims of authorship, plagiarism, fraudulent use of data or the like, may be "Withdrawn" from the journal. Withdrawal means that the article files are removed and replaced with a PDF stating that the article has been withdrawn from the journal in accordance with AHRO Scientific Publishing Ltd Editorial Policies.

Article Retraction

If any manuscripts are published, having certain assigned information of volume / issue / page number, and it is found that there are infringements of professional ethical codes in their content, such as plagiarism, excess similarity with some other article, fraudulent use of data, etc., then such manuscripts are retracted.

- A retraction note entitled "Retraction: [article title]" (for example Retraction: ABC experiment involving XYZ species) is published in the paginated part of the next scheduled issue of the journal and is also listed in the table of contents.
- The retraction note is approved by the Editor-in-Chief of the concerned journal.
- A link to the original article is displayed in the online (electronic) version.
- A screen containing the note of retraction appears before the electronic version of the article present on the website. On the screen, a link for the complete article is present, i.e. to access the retracted article.

 The link / webpage of the original article remains unchanged, however a watermark is shaded on its downloadable PDF document, in order to explicitly give the message that the article was retracted.

Concurrent Publication/Simultaneous Submission

It is a condition of publication that manuscripts submitted to the AHRO Scientific Publishing Ltd journal have not been published and will not be simultaneously submitted or published elsewhere. Plagiarism is strictly forbidden, and by submitting the article for publication the authors agree that the publishers have the legal right to take appropriate action against the authors, if plagiarism or fabricated information is discovered.

Abstracts and posters of conferences, results presented at meetings (for example, to inform investigators or participants about findings), results databases (data without interpretation, discussion, context or conclusions in the form of tables and text to describe data/information where this is not easily presented in tabular form) are not considered prior publication.

Authors who wish to publish translations of the articles that have been published elsewhere should ensure that they have appropriate permission(s), indicate clearly that the material has been translated and re-published, and indicate clearly the original source of the material. The Editor-in-Chief may request copies of related publications if he/she is concerned about overlap and possible redundancy. Some authors engage in sending their articles to different journals which contravene our policy of submitting articles that have not been submitted to another journal. After the publication, authors revert asking for the journal to withdraw their article. If any author should engage in this unethical behaviour, the journal should charge the author \$1000 before such withdrawal.

PERMISSION FOR REPRODUCTION:

Disclaimer

Responsibility for the content published by AHRO Scientific Publishing Ltd in any of its journals, including any opinions expressed therein, rests exclusively with the author(s) of such content. To the maximum extent permitted by applicable law, AHRO Scientific Publishing Ltd (on its own behalf, and on behalf of its staff and members of its editorial board) disclaims responsibility for any and all injury and/or damage (whether financial or

otherwise) to persons or property, resulting directly or indirectly from any ideas, methods, instructions or products (including errors in the same) referred to in the content of any of AHRO Scientific Publishing Ltd's journals. Any dispute arising, including any claim shall be governed exclusively by the laws of Scotland.

Fabricating and Stating False Information

To ensure the scholarly integrity of every article, AHRO Scientific Publishing Ltd will publish post-publication notices. The authors of the published articles, or those who have submitted the manuscripts with false information, or fabricated the supporting data or images, will be liable for sanctions, and their papers will be retracted.

Correction Notice

AHRO Scientific Publishing Ltd will issue a correction notice in case of any correction or omission causing a change in interpretation of the article. This applies to the cases, including mislabelled figures, missing integral funding and/or other information, and authors' competing interests.

There can be major or minor errors/ corrections. Major inaccuracies or omissions may be any changes, which affects the clarity and integrity of an article. Minor errors do not affect the overall meaning of the text.

A separate correction notice will accompany the major errors/ corrections. The correction notice will provide precise details of the mistakes and the revisions/alterations that have been incorporated in the final version.

To rectify the significant error or omission, we will: Amend the online version of the article, issue a separate correction notice that will be connected to the revised version of the article and add a footnote to the article, which will be hyperlinked to the correction notice.

There will be no separate correction notice for minor errors/ corrections. Again, a footnote will be added to the article stating that it has been modified to update the readers. Any decision to issue retraction notice for an article will be taken in accordance with COPE guidelines available at: https://publicationethics.org/files/Fabricated%20data%20B.pdf

Correction Notice for Articles in Press

Articles in Press (articles that have been accepted for publication or published as E-pub Ahead of Schedule but which have not been formally published with volume/issue/page information) that include errors, or are determined to violate the publishing ethics guidelines such as multiple submission, fake claims of authorship, plagiarism, fraudulent use of data or the like, may be "Withdrawn" from the journal. Withdrawal means that the article files are removed and replaced with a PDF stating that the article has been withdrawn from the journal in accordance with our Editorial Policies.

Copied Submission and Redundant Publication

AHRO Scientific Publishing Ltd journals ensure that the research work is original and unpublished electronically or in print. Only research that represents original work or a thesis available on a preprint server, and is not published anywhere else is considered.

AHRO Scientific Publishing Ltd journals only cater to those articles which are not submitted elsewhere for publication at the same. Those authors who have made simultaneous submissions may be liable to penalty. The authors must cite the previous research work and specify how their submitted manuscript varies from their previous articles. The authors will be asked to provide a reference for their earlier research work, published or under review in order to meet the criteria of manuscript submission. In case of the author uses his own text from the previous publication other than the Methods section, then it should be mentioned in the text. Consent from the copyright holder must be required in cases where the authors reuse figures or a considerable number of words.

For the projects presented at conferences, AHRO Scientific Publishing Ltd will consider the extended versions of the manuscripts provided this is declared in the cover letter. Furthermore, the article should have the previous version cited and mentioned, and there is unpublished and original content, and any necessary permission has been obtained.

The redundant publication refers to the publication of the same data more than once, resulting in rejection or a request to merge the submitted manuscripts and the rectification of published manuscripts. Seriously flawed or misleading content (plagiarised publication) may cause retraction of the article, and the authors may be penalized.

Manipulation of Citations

Authors with the aim just to increase the number of citations to a given author's research work or the manuscripts previously published in a particular journal may result in sanctions for the author. Similarly, the editors and reviewers should not encourage authors to add references just to increase citations to their own or an associate's work, to the journal, or to another journal they are associated with.

AHRO Scientific Publishing Ltd ONLY accepts articles written in good English. A scientifically sound and grammatically correct article leaves a greater impact on the reader. Our copyeditors ensure the usage of correct grammar and spelling, consistent terminology and accurate punctuation.

ARTICLE PROCESSING CHARGES

The costs associated with high-quality open access publishing in AHRO Scientific Publishing journals are covered by article publication charges (APCs), which can be paid by institutions, funders or researchers. In some cases, the cost of APCs is sponsored in full or in part by AHRO Scientific Publishing Ltd partners. APC prices are listed on each journal website and included in the full price list below. Where APCs apply, they are only charged once an article has been accepted for publication. There is no charge if an article is rejected (before or after peer review), and there are no submission fees.

For further information about paying APCs, including available discounts and waivers, please contact info@ahroeop.org

What costs does an IOP Publishing journal incur?

IOP Publishing strives to uphold the highest publishing standards, and we endeavour to minimise the time required of the research community in the setting-up and running of journals, enabling scientists to spend maximum time on their own research.

Some of the main costs we incur in publishing high-quality journals include:

 Peer review: AHRO Scientific Publishing Ltd's editorial staffs manage all the operational aspects of peer review, ensuring the fairness, timeliness and thoroughness of the peerreview process and enabling scientific experts to focus on assessing the scientific value of suitable and relevant papers. Our editorial staffs also provide regular advice and training to experienced and new peer reviewers. The peer review workflow is managed via an industry-leading digital system, and the process is overseen in accordance with the very latest ethical and research integrity standards.

- Editorial development: AHRO Scientific Publishing Ltd's editorial staffs also manage the
 process of developing the scientific scope of each journal, recruiting and consulting the
 journal's advisory board, and taking responsibility for the active commissioning of highquality content.
- Production: All accepted articles undergo language assessment and copy-editing as well as
 conversion to XML and the creation of industry-standard formats for digital distribution.
 Some subscription journals will also be printed and distributed to readers internationally in
 print form
- Online dissemination: Articles are published on our wholly-owned and developed platform
 to ensure global visibility and perpetual online hosting and archiving. Discovery of the article
 is maximised through content APIs and feeds to external indexes such as Web of Science and
 Scopus.
- Content marketing and licensing: AHRO Scientific Publishing staffs seek all available avenues to attract submissions and to promote articles through print and digital formats, including social media and regular attendance at academic conferences. Our staffs also work with university and industry libraries around the world to facilitate the licensing of content for use by research faculty and students. These licensing agreements increasingly incorporate arrangements to cover or discount the costs of open access publication for the institution's researchers.

APC pricing

Whilst all AHRO Scientific Publishing Ltd journals apply the same high standards of peer review and publication, they may have different APC prices. Differences can be determined by a number of factors, including:

- Rejection rate: the ratio of accepted articles to the total number of manuscripts received.
- Development intensity: The degree and proportion of editorial development work conducted by journal staff compared to external academics.

- **Editing**: The average level of language editing, formatting and structuring of an article required and the make-up of the content in terms of equations, figures, data etc.
- Marketing intensity: The degree of promotional activity required to attract authors and readers and ensure visibility and impact of journals and their articles.
- **Custom services**: Other customised editorial activities or technical functionality offered by the journal, such as open data validation or embedded multimedia content.

Open access refund policy

AHRO Scientific Publishing Ltd endeavours to publish every open access article on the terms agreed with the authors and without delay. If you or your institution is unhappy with any aspect of the open access publishing service, you should <u>contact the journal</u>. Every effort will be made to respond to any deficiencies in service without delay. Where service fails to meet our high standards, you may be offered, on request and at the publisher's discretion, a refund of part of the APC or a credit towards future publications.