

EDITORIAL

A discussion/dialogue was initiated in the last issue of this journal (Volume 45, Number 1, March 2017) regarding enhancing the recognition of the Journal. It is important and necessary to continue this dialogue with all the stakeholders of the Journal to achieve the desired increased recognition. The team of stakeholders committed to achieve increased recognition for the Journal must necessarily include researchers/authors who submit articles for publication in the Journal, the peer reviewers selected to assess these articles, the members of the Editorial Board and the members of the Editorial Office of the National Science Foundation (NSF). In addition to the above, the members of the Board of Management of the NSF and the community of scientists and technologists also play important roles in this exercise.

The readers please note that in this discussion/dialogue with the stakeholders, I have been guided by what has been learnt from past practices and the current practices and procedures of the Journal as well as the guidelines which have been set by the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) available at <http://publicationethics.org>.

It is logical that we first focus our discussion on the responsibilities of the researchers/authors who submit articles for publication in the Journal of the National Science Foundation (JNSF). These researchers/authors take on an immense responsibility from the time they decide to consider publication of their research studies in the JNSF. They have to keep in mind the scope of the JNSF when deciding on the research study. The manuscripts

must report original contributions to knowledge resulting from their research work and the contributions must be significant. The manuscripts should list as authors only those who have significantly contributed to the research study in terms of the concept, design, implementation, analysis and interpretation of results of the study as well as writing of the manuscript. Those who do not qualify as co-authors but have contributed substantially to the success of the study has to be acknowledged in the manuscripts. This responsibility lies with the authors.

When submitting a manuscript for possible publication in the JNSF, the authors take on the responsibility of not submitting the same manuscript to another Journal or a manuscript with substantially similar content under the same authorship.

The Journal publishes two documents one giving guidance to contributors on the different categories of manuscripts published and the scope of the Journal. The other document details out the points to be considered when preparing a manuscript. It is extremely important for the authors to follow the guidelines set out in these two documents particularly the sections on results and discussion and conclusions.

We will continue this discussion in the next issue of the Journal focusing on the role of the review process adopted by the Journal, particularly the very important role played by the peer reviewers in enhancing of the recognition of the Journal.

Nalini Ratnasiri