

Publication Ethics

Prefix

Thermal Spray Bulletin is published twice a year as a print journal and offers authors a continuous-publication format and global distribution for their research through an online platform and pay-per-view option for individual publications. Our ethical standards and best practice policy statement is based mainly on the COPE (Committee on Publication Ethics) Code of Conduct and Best-Practice Guidelines for Journal Editors, 2011. It outlines recommended principles to promote ethical conduct of the key persons involved in publishing our journals. The integrity of our academic content and publishing process is paramount. This document outlines the best practice principles that we apply to our journals.

Research Integrity

These principles cover:

- honesty in all aspects of research,
- scrupulous care, thoroughness, and excellence in research practice,
- transparency and open communication,
- care and respect for all participants in and subjects of research.
- accountability both for one's own research integrity and that of others when behavior falls short of our standards.

Anyone who believes that research published by any DVS Media journal has not been carried out in line with these Publication Ethics Guidelines, or the above principles, should raise their concern with the relevant editor or e-mail redaktion@dvs-media.info.

Editorial and Peer-review Process

We are committed to editorial independence and strive in all cases to prevent this principle from being compromised through competing interests, fear, or any other corporate, business, financial or political influence. Our editorial processes reflect this commitment to editorial independence.

We do not discriminate against authors, editors or peer reviewers based on personal characteristics or identity. We are committed to embedding diversity, removing barriers to inclusion, and promoting equity at every stage of our publishing process. We actively

seek and encourage submissions from scholars of diverse backgrounds, including race and ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, nationality, religion, and disability.

Editorial decisions on manuscripts submitted to our journals are made by our responsible editors based on the standards for publication in our journals. Once accepted the manuscripts are entered into the peer-review process.

The **editors** are required to:

- serve the needs of readers, authors, reviewers and business managers.
- are professional in all oral or written communications.
- evaluate each potential manuscript based primarily on its importance, originality, clarity and validity and publish only papers that are relevant to our journals' scope and are of interest to our reading community.
- provide written guidance and feedback to authors, reviewers, print and online publishing staff and quickly and professionally resolve all issues that arise during document review, revision, formatting and publication.

- assign qualified referees and preserve the anonymity of reviewers.
- ensure the quality of both published material and its presentation.
- respond promptly to complaints and conduct a thorough investigation if they suspect or are informed of alleged misconduct related to either published and unpublished papers, and ensure corrective measures are put in place to resolve proven unethical behaviour.
- publish corrections, clarifications, retractions and apologies when needed.
- ensure fair, accurate and timely remuneration of any fees or reimbursements due to authors.
- make sure readers are well-informed of changes to a journal that affect subscription, content or presentation.
- monitor on-going relevance of, and compliance with, these publication ethics.
- follow and promote all other company ethical policy guidelines
- being open to research that challenges previous work published in the journal.

We do not tolerate abusive behaviour or correspondence towards our staff and others involved in the publishing process on our behalf. If anyone involved in this process engages in such behaviour, we have the right to take action to protect others from this abuse. This may include, for example, withdrawal of a manuscript from consideration, or challenging clearly abusive peer-review comments.

Peer-review

Peer-review is critical to maintaining the standards of our publications. We:

- encourage our editors and peer-reviewers to familiarise themselves with and act in accordance with relevant best practice guidelines on peer review. For journal editors and peer reviewers, please refer to COPE's Ethical Guidelines for Peer Reviewers.
- expect those who oversee the peer review process to be able to recognise warning signs of fraudulent or manipulated peer review, and to raise any concerns by emailing redaktion@dvs-media.info.
- support our editors and peer-reviewers in investigating and acting on any suspected cases of manipulated or fraudulent peer-review;
- protect the confidentiality of participants in the peer-review process where anonymity forms part of that publication's peer-review process. We also expect our publishing partners, authors and peer-reviewers to uphold any relevant confidentiality arrangements for each journal and to provide necessary information to support this.

All **authors** submitting their research findings for publication commit to:

- make a good-faith effort to follow journal submission standards and guidelines
- attest that any submitted paper or its substantive content have not been published elsewhere by themselves or others
- verify that the actual investigators and authors of the paper are correctly listed and accompanying biographical information is accurate
- identify the funding of their research work to avoid conflicts of interest and any appearance of bias
- confirm that the results described in a submitted paper are original, truthful and complete, and that content used or referenced from other sources is cited and properly acknowledged
- consent and fully participate in the required formal peer review process
- assure that all data presented in a paper is authentic, are prepared to make the data publicly available if practicable, and ensure accessibility of the data for at least ten years after publication
- inform the editor about any potential conflicts of interest and work to resolve any related issues

- inform the editor immediately if an error in their publication is identified, and correct, clarify or retract the paper when requested
- follow all contractual rules regarding dissemination, future reference and reuse of their material published in the journal

The **corresponding author**'s specific responsibilities include:

- manuscript correction and proofreading. Handling the revisions and re-submission of revised manuscripts up to the acceptance of the manuscripts.
- acting on behalf of all co-authors in responding to queries from all sources post- publication, including questions relating to publishing ethics, reuse of content, or the availability of data, materials, resources etc.

The **permanent expert board** is composed of independent academic experts
<https://www.thermal-spray-bulletin.info/storage/media/documents/78/permanent-expert-board.pdf>.

Each member commits to:

- make a good-faith effort to follow journal review standards and guidelines.
- assess assigned manuscripts for relevance, methodology, scientific accuracy and validity of results and conclusions before publication and help the editor improve the paper.
- review articles objectively, without bias or personality-related judgements.
- treat reviewed material confidentially and do not pass information on to third parties.
- inform the editor about potential conflicts of interest related to themselves, the authors, the publisher or third parties.
- withdraw from the review process for a paper if they feel that they are not qualified to.
- professionally and fairly evaluate it or are unable to meet publishing deadlines.

Authorship and Contributorship

Where no other guidance is specified, following principles should be applied for defining authorship:

- Substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data for the work; and/or
- Drafting the work or revising it critically for important intellectual content; and/or
- Final approval of the version to be published; and
- Agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work and to ensure that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

Duplicate and Redundant Publication

Duplicate or redundant publication, or 'self-plagiarism', occurs when a work, or substantial parts of a work, is published more than once by the author(s) of the work without appropriate cross-referencing or justification for the overlap. This can be in the same or a different language.

We do not support substantial overlap between publications, unless:

- it is felt that editorially this will strengthen the academic discourse; and
- we have clear approval from the original publication; and
- we include citation of the original source.

We expect our readers, reviewers and editors to raise any suspicions of duplicate or redundant publication, either by contacting the relevant editor or by emailing redaktion@dvs-media.info.

When authors submit manuscripts to our journals, these manuscripts should not be under consideration, accepted for publication or in press within a different journal, book or similar entity.

Any manuscript based on a thesis should be a reworking of the material in the thesis and written to conform to the journal's style guide or relevant book guidance. When quoting from the thesis or reusing figures, authors should avoid self-plagiarism by citing and referencing any extracts copied or adapted from the thesis appropriately. The relevant editor should be informed that the manuscript draws on a thesis in the cover letter.

Competing Interests

We try to ensure that any DVS Media publication is free from undue influence. Competing interests are situations that could be perceived to exert an undue influence on the presentation, review or publication of a piece of work. These may be financial, non-financial, professional, contractual or personal in nature. We also expect that anyone who suspects an undisclosed competing interest regarding a work published or under consideration by DVS Media should inform the relevant editor or email redaktion@dvs-media.info.

Retractions, Corrections and Expressions of Concern

Journal editors will consider retractions, corrections or expressions of concern. If an author is found to have made an error, the journal will issue a corrigendum. If the journal is found to have made an error, they will issue an erratum. Retractions are usually reserved for articles that are so seriously flawed that their findings or conclusions should not be relied upon, or that contain substantial plagiarism or life-endangering content. Journals that publish Accepted Manuscripts may make minor changes such as those which would likely occur during copyediting, typesetting or proofreading, but any substantive corrections will be carried out.

In exceptional cases, we may remove an article from online publication where we believe it is necessary to comply with our legal obligations. This includes, without limitation, where we have concerns that the article is defamatory, violates personal privacy or confidentiality laws, is the subject of a court order. In these circumstances, we may decide to remove the article and publish a notice that clearly states why the full article has been removed.

Image Manipulation, Falsification and Fabrication

Where research data are collected or presented as images, modifying these images can sometimes misrepresent the results obtained or their significance. We recognise that there can be legitimate reasons for modifying images, but we expect authors to avoid modifying images where this leads to the falsification, fabrication, or misrepresentation of their results.

Fraudulent Research and Research Misconduct

Where we are made aware of fraudulent research or research misconduct by a DVS Media author, our first concern is the integrity of content we have published. We work with the relevant editor(s), and other appropriate institutions or organisations, to investigate. Any publication found to include fraudulent results will be retracted, or an appropriate correction or expression of concern will be issued. Please see the Retractions, Corrections and Expressions of Concern section of these guidelines for more information.

Data and Study data

We support transparency and openness around data and other materials associated with research. We expect authors to maintain accurate records of study data necessary to allow others to understand, verify, and replicate new findings, and to supply or provide access to this study data, on reasonable request. Where appropriate and where allowed by their employer, funding body or others who might have an interest, we encourage authors to:

- deposit study data in a suitable repository or storage location, for sharing and further use by others; and
- describe where the study data may be found in a Data Availability Statement which authors should include in their publication.

Integrity of Record

We maintain a record of the existence of everything we publish with information (metadata) describing each publication. Where we are obliged to alter the publication record in any way, such as in the case of research misconduct leading to retraction of a publication, we preserve the academic record as far possible. See the Retractions, Corrections and Expressions of Concern of these guidelines for information about how we do this.

We apply these same principles to our marketing, and do not modify or manipulate the representation of the academic record in our marketing activities.

When any article or journal is purchased or subscribed to, we supply it only in its totality to the customer, who is not entitled to alter its content in any way that is inconsistent with the licensing terms under which it was published.

Marketing Communication

Social media and email communication are powerful tools for disseminating and engaging with our publications, for reaching new readers and for keeping content alive. However, such onward communication should never be at the expense of the integrity of the content or of the academic record. All colleagues with responsibility for our social media channels are expected to familiarise themselves with relevant DVS Media social media policies, best practice in media use. Colleagues are also expected to apply these policies and this guidance when using external influencers during a social media campaign.

Advertising

Our Journals are financed by advertisements from various companies. Thermal Spray Bulletin advertisements include thermal spray related product or service advertisements from thermal spray companies. These advertisements are in any case:

- independent of editorial decisions about what we publish;
- clearly distinguishable from editorial content.

In our publishing house, editorial and advertising sales are strictly separated. We reserve the right to refuse or remove advertising. As a publisher, we also advertise our products and services to customers.

Author fees

As our journals are financed by advertising, we do not charge author fees.