

Editorial Board Member Agreement

This agreement is made between

Springer Nature Limited, The Campus, 4 Crinan Street, London N1 9XW, United Kingdom

and

Prof Adriano Barra, Università del Salento, Via per Arnesano Via Salaria 190, 00198, Roma, RM, Italia

By this Editor Agreement (“**Agreement**”) Springer Nature Limited (“**Publisher**”) confirms the appointment of Prof Adriano Barra to serve as Senior Editorial Board Member for the journal entitled *Scientific Reports* (“**Journal**”).

For good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is acknowledged, the parties, intending to be legally bound, agree as follows by signing this Agreement which shall come into force on 15 July 2019 (“**Commencement Date**”).

1. Responsibilities of the Senior Editorial Board Member

The responsibilities of the Senior Editorial Board Member include:

- 1.1 Dealing in a timely fashion with all queries received relating to the Journal, including interactions with the in-house editors and other representatives of the Publisher.
- 1.2 Efficiently handling a minimum of three new manuscripts per month, as required, and dealing with other Journal-related tasks assigned to the Senior Editorial Board Member by the in-house editors.
- 1.3 Inform the Publisher if at any time the Senior Editorial Board Member is unable to carry out the terms of this Agreement.
- 1.4 Adhering to standards of editorial good practice, as defined in the Publisher’s Code of Conduct for Editors of academic journals. The Code of Conduct, which is based on guidelines and best practice recommendations issued by organizations such as the Committee of Publication Ethics (COPE), forms Appendix 1 to this Agreement and constitutes an integral part of it.

2. Honorarium

- 2.1 The Publisher shall pay to the Senior Editorial Board Member an annual honorarium of EUR 1000. Honoraria payments can only be made directly and exclusively to the Senior Editorial Board Member.
- 2.2 The payment shall be made no later than 1st April of the calendar year that follows the year for which the payment is due.
- 2.3 Where the Agreement is not in effect throughout a given calendar year, the honorarium shall be pro-rated (one twelfth for each month during which the Agreement was in effect for at least one day).

3. Article-Processing Charge

The Publisher shall charge an article-processing charge (“**APC**”) for articles accepted for publication in the Journal by the Journal’s Chief Editor, by an Editorial Board Member of the Journal or by any other person authorized by the Chief Editor to make final decisions on article acceptances for the Journal. The APC shall be charged to the submitting author of an article, unless other arrangements to cover the APC

apply. The APC amount and decisions on any APC waivers and discounts are at the sole discretion of the Publisher.

4. Open Access, Article Licensing and Copyright

- 4.1. All articles published in the Journal shall be published on an open access basis.
- 4.2. The Creative Commons Attribution License (CC BY) shall apply to all articles published in the Journal. In order to reflect updates to the CC BY license the Publisher reserves the right to update its Copyright Policy and License Agreement.
- 4.3. The parties acknowledge that copyright in articles published in the Journal shall remain vested in the authors or original copyright holders (e.g. authors' institution).
- 4.4. Occasionally a different licensing and copyright arrangement may be required for individual articles, for instance if mandated by funding agencies. To the extent possible the open access nature of such articles shall not be affected.

5. Article Transfer Service

As a service to authors, peer reviewers and editors, the Publisher provides support for the transfer ("**Transfer Service**") of scientifically valid manuscripts that are rejected from one journal, for instance on grounds of journal scope, to other journals in the portfolio offering a better fit for the manuscript. The Senior Editorial Board Member agrees to participate, where appropriate, in this Transfer Service through (i) offering the transfer option to authors whose manuscripts have been rejected from the Journal, (ii) considering manuscripts received by the Journal through the Transfer Service, and (iii) discussing with Publisher which other journals, if any, in the Publisher's portfolio are suitable for the Journal as source for and/or recipient of manuscripts via the Transfer Service.

6. Ownership and Intellectual Property

Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to give the Senior Editorial Board Member a claim to ownership of any intellectual property, including but not limited to the Journal, owned or provided by the Publisher or of any third parties and used in, or in conjunction with, the Journal.

7. Warranties

- 7.1. The parties warrant that they have the full power and authority to enter into this Agreement.
- 7.2. The Senior Editorial Board Member warrants that at all times he or she shall comply in full with: (i) all applicable anti-bribery and corruption laws; and (ii) the Publisher's anti-bribery and corruption policy as amended from time to time (and currently entitled Business Partner Code of Conduct and available at <http://www.springernature.com/gp/group/responsible-business>).
- 7.3. The Senior Editorial Board Member warrants that neither the Senior Editorial Board Member nor any person acting on behalf of the Senior Editorial Board Member: (i) has directly or indirectly: (a) paid, provided, offered or authorised any payment, gift, inducement or other benefit to any person including any governmental or regulatory entity or official in any territory for the purpose of improperly obtaining, retaining or directing business or to secure or obtain any improper business advantage; nor (b) received, accepted or authorised any such benefit from any such person for any such purpose; nor (ii) shall directly or indirectly do any of the foregoing at any time whilst the Senior Editorial Board Member continues to provide services to the Publisher. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, any breach by the Senior Editorial Board Member of this clause may be regarded by the Publisher as incapable of remedy and permitting the Publisher, without prejudice to its other rights and remedies, to terminate this Agreement on immediate written notice.
- 7.4. The parties shall adhere to all applicable data protection regulations.

8. Term and Termination

- 8.1. The appointment of the Senior Editorial Board Member shall begin on the Commencement Date and remain in force until 31 December 2019 unless terminated earlier in accordance with the provisions of this Term and Termination clause.
- 8.2. If no notice of termination has been served by either party not later than 3 months before the end of this Agreement, this Agreement will continue in force for further periods of 1 year during which either party may terminate by giving 3 months' notice of such termination in writing to the other party.
- 8.3. Either party may terminate this Agreement by giving 3 months' notice of such termination in writing to the other party.
- 8.4. The Publisher reserves the right to terminate this Agreement with immediate effect by giving written notice on the occurrence of any of the following:
 - a. The Senior Editorial Board Member commits any material, willful, or persistent breach or breaches of this Agreement and (where capable of remedy) fails to make good such breach within 30 days of receipt of notice;
 - b. The Senior Editorial Board Member is in material breach of the Publisher's Code of Conduct for Editors of academic journals, which forms Appendix 1 to this Agreement, or is otherwise in material breach of accepted ethical standards in research and scholarship.
 - c. In the opinion of the Publisher any act, allegation or conduct of or about the Senior Editorial Board Member prejudices the production or successful exploitation of the Journal or brings the name and/or reputation of the Publisher or the Journal into disrepute or is likely to do so.

9. Confidentiality

- 9.1. The Senior Editorial Board Member shall not use or disclose to any person or entity either during or after this Agreement any confidential information about the business or affairs of Publisher or any other company or affiliate in its group or any of its business contacts, or about any other confidential matters which may come to the Senior Editorial Board Member's knowledge during the Term. Confidential information means any information or matter which is not in the public domain and which relates to the affairs of Publisher or any other company in its group or any of their business contacts.
- 9.2. The restriction in this Confidentiality provision does not apply to:
 - a. any use or disclosure authorised by Publisher or as required by judicial, administrative, governmental or regulatory process in connection with any action, suit, proceedings or claim or otherwise by applicable law; or
 - b. any information which is already in, or comes into, the public domain otherwise than through unauthorised disclosure by the Senior Editorial Board Member.
- 9.3. This Confidentiality clause shall survive the termination of this Agreement for five years.

10. General

- 10.1. This Agreement constitutes the whole understanding between the Senior Editorial Board Member and the Publisher and no waiver or modification of this Agreement shall be valid unless in writing and signed by both parties. The parties agree to waive the requirement to sign on paper and to accept as binding such documents signed electronically by all parties provided they use an industry accepted electronic signature service such as, but not limited to, DocuSign.
- 10.2. Nothing in this Agreement or to be done under this Agreement shall be deemed to constitute a partnership or a relationship of principal and agent or employer and employee. The Senior

Editorial Board Member will be fully responsible for and in respect of any income tax, value added tax, National Insurance, social security contributions (or any of its or their equivalents anywhere in the world) arising from or made in connection with the performance by the Senior Editorial Board Member of the editorial services. If the Senior Editorial Board Member fails to abide by this requirement or the Publisher is required to pay any related fees, taxes (including but not limited to withholding taxes), or expenses, the Publisher may deduct such fees, taxes or expenses from any payment from the Publisher to the Senior Editorial Board Member. The Publisher is entitled to report related information (including personal and financial data) to the respective authorities.

- 10.3. Any dispute or claim arising out of this Agreement or in connection with it shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of England and Wales and subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of London, UK.

Please sign if the above terms as well as the terms in the Appendix 1 are acceptable.

Signed

Signed, for and on behalf of

Senior Editorial Board Member

Springer Nature Limited

DocuSigned by:
Prof Adriano Barra
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Prof Adriano Barra

DocuSigned by:
Anna Treadway
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Anna Treadway
Head of *Scientific Reports* and BMC Series

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VP Journals, Nature Research & BMC

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Date 03 July 2019

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Nature Research Journal Editorial Board Member 04/2019

Appendix 1

The Publisher's Code of Conduct for Editors of academic journals

In this Code of Conduct for Editors the term "Journal" shall mean the journal for which the Editor is serving. This Code is based on Springer Nature's Code of Conduct for Editors-in-Chief, which can be found here:

<https://www.springernature.com/gp/editors/code-of-conduct-journals>.

COPE

1. The Journal is a member of the [Committee on Publication Ethics](#) (COPE). Editors are expected to follow the COPE guideline entitled *Code of Conduct and Best Practice Guidelines for Journal Editors*.
2. The Publisher has responsibility to ensure that journals published by the Publisher adhere to editorial and publication ethics standards recommended by COPE, and the Publisher will support Editors in their pursuit of adhering to such COPE standards. When dealing with publication and research ethics issues, Editors are expected to follow COPE guidance and flowcharts or any guidance provided by the Publisher. The *Code of Conduct and Best Practice Guidelines for Journal Editors* and general guidelines and flowcharts are available from the COPE website (<http://publicationethics.org>).
3. Editors are expected to be aware of the editorial policies and information provided for authors by the Journal.

Peer review

4. Editors are expected to comply with the Journal's peer review policy (e.g. open, single-blind, double-blind).
5. Peer review is an essential component of the research publication. It aims to assess the validity of the reported research and suitability for journals' scope and aims. In order to maintain the integrity of the published record the Editors are expected to ensure that all manuscripts reporting primary research, or secondary analysis of primary research, accepted for publication in the Journal are peer reviewed by reviewers who are competent in a relevant field and/or have expertise in a relevant methodology, as judged by their publication record, and are free of potential bias. Such bias includes, but is not limited to, any recent collaboration between the peer reviewers and the authors of the manuscript. The requirement for Editors to ensure absence of conflicts of interest amongst peer reviewers expressly applies to peer reviewers suggested by the authors of the manuscript.
6. Editors are expected to obtain a minimum of two peer reviewers for manuscripts reporting primary research or secondary analysis of primary research. It is recognized that in some exceptional circumstances, particularly in niche and emerging fields, it may not be possible to obtain two independent peer reviewers. In such cases, Editors may wish to make a decision to publish based on one peer review report. When making a decision based on one report, Editors are expected to only do so if the peer review report meets the standards set out in section 7 below.
7. Peer review reports should be in English and provide constructive critical evaluations of the authors' work, particularly in relation to the appropriateness of methods used, whether the results are accurate, and whether the conclusions are supported by the results. Where the Editor(s) are responsible for making final accept or reject decisions on manuscripts, editorial decisions should be based on peer reviewer comments that meet these criteria rather than on recommendations made by short, superficial peer reviewer reports which do not provide a scientific rationale for the recommendations.
8. Editors are expected to independently verify the contact details of reviewers suggested by authors or other third parties. Institutional email addresses should be used to invite peer reviewers wherever possible. Each manuscript should be reviewed by at least one reviewer who was not suggested by the author.
9. Manuscripts that do not report primary research or secondary analysis of primary research, such as Editorials, Book Reviews, Commentaries or Opinion articles, may be accepted without two peer review reports. Such manuscripts should be assessed by the Editor if the topic is in the area of expertise of the Editor; if the topic is not in area of expertise of the Editor, such manuscripts should be assessed by at least one independent expert reviewer or other Editorial Board Member with expertise in the topic.

Manuscript handling

10. Editors are expected to provide a professional service to authors. Correspondence should be handled in a timely and professional manner. Arrangements should be in place to ensure editorial staff absences do not result in a reduced service to authors.
11. Editors are expected to make full use of the online submission and peer-review system provided by the Publisher and, where necessary, maintain offline tracking systems, in order to preserve a full record of the peer review of each manuscript. Where offline tracking is used, Editors should upload offline records to the online submission and peer-review system as soon as possible.

Confidentiality

12. Editors are expected to respect and uphold the confidential status of materials submitted to the Journal and should ensure that material remains confidential while under review.

Libelous and defamatory content

13. Editors are expected to inform the Journal's Chief Editor and seek advice from the Publisher if they believe a manuscript contains potentially libelous or defamatory content.

Human subjects, data and tissue

14. Concerning any data from human subjects, Editors are expected to ensure that manuscripts accepted for publication comply with the Journal's editorial policies and specific research requirements and ethics standards for their field.
 - a. Editors should be satisfied that all research involving human subjects, human material or human data that is accepted for publication in the Journal is ethical and has been performed in accordance with the World Medical Association Declaration of Helsinki (<https://www.wma.net/policies-post/wma-declaration-of-helsinki-ethical-principles-for-medical-research-involving-human-subjects/>) or a comparable national standard that aims to protect the safety and rights of human research participants. Such research has to comply with the authors' national and institutional ethics committee requirements for ethics approval and informed consent.
 - b. Where some or all of the research has taken place in a country that is different from that of the authors', ethics committee approval should be obtained from an ethics committee that is local to where the research took place.
 - c. Regulations regarding what type of study requires ethical approval vary world-wide. Where there are no local or national ethics committees or established regulations, Editors should use the standards set out in the Declaration of Helsinki to decide whether there are any ethical concerns about the conduct of the research that would preclude publication. Guidance is available from COPE, in particular from the COPE document entitled *Guidance for Editors: Research, Audit and Service Evaluations*. Editors should seek advice from the Publisher in difficult cases.
 - d. In the case of use of human tissue, expressly including but not limited to stem cells, the research should comply with national and international regulations and guidelines on the use of such tissue for research.
 - e. Regardless of any local ethics committee approval, research that appears to violate the Declaration of Helsinki or comparable national standards that aim to protect the safety and rights of human research participants, or any guidelines on the use of human tissue, should be investigated in accordance with COPE guidelines. Editors should seek guidance from the Publisher in difficult cases.
 - f. Manuscripts reporting research on human subjects, tissue or data should include a statement of independent ethics committee approval including the name of the ethics committee that approved the study and a statement of informed consent obtained from the human subjects to participate in the study.
 - g. Where the manuscript reports information, data, images or videos that might potentially identify an individual, the manuscript should include a statement of informed consent to publish those details.

Animals used for research, education and testing

15. Work reporting animal research, including that used for education and testing, should have been approved by an appropriate ethics committee. In the absence of an animal research ethics committee or any institutional or national guidelines or regulations, Editors should use their discretion when deciding whether there are any ethical concerns about the research that may preclude publication. Research on endangered animal and plant species should be carried out in compliance with standards set out in the [IUCN Policy Statement on Research Involving Species at Risk of Extinction](#) and the [Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora](#). Editors should seek advice from the Publisher in difficult cases.

Conflicts of interest of Editors

16. Editors are expected to inform the Publisher and the Journal's Chief Editor of any interests that may influence, or may be perceived to influence, any decisions they take as Editors of the Journal. Financial and non-financial interests (including, but not limited to personal relationships, professional interests or personal beliefs) should be disclosed. Please note that the declaration of these interests does not disqualify the Editor from the role as an Editor of the Journal.
17. Where Editors have a conflict of interest regarding a specific manuscript, the Chief Editor or the Publisher will assign another member of the Editorial Board or an in-house editor to assume responsibility for overseeing peer review and decision making on that manuscript.
18. Editors submitting to the Journal any manuscript on which they are authors are expected to comply with the Journal's editorial policies for authors on disclosures of potential conflicts of interests.

Complaints

19. Complaints against the Editors will be investigated by the Publisher in the first instance, but may be referred to an independent ombudsman or COPE for advice if appropriate.

Miscellaneous

20. Editors should not act as representatives of the Publisher or make statements to the media, post comments or write editorials claiming to represent the Publisher without the Publisher's prior agreement.