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### **Re COPE's support of the EQUATOR Network**

COPE (the Committee on Publication Ethics) recognises the EQUATOR network as a significant contribution to improving the reporting of medical research. Since misleading reporting of medical research is unethical, and could cause harm to patients, we welcome initiatives aimed at educating authors, raising reporting standards and reducing deliberate misconduct.

Since editors have a duty to safeguard the research record, they should endeavour to encourage the highest possible standards of reporting in their journals. Therefore, while reporting guidelines and checklists cannot, by themselves, eliminate research and publication misconduct, we welcome initiatives such as EQUATOR that encourage their use.

Yours sincerely,

Elizabeth Wager  
Chair of COPE