Promoting Global Health

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The published medical research literature is a global public good. Medical journal editors have a social responsibility to promote global health by publishing, whenever possible, research that furthers health worldwide. For purposes of this statement, global health is defined as follows: “Global health is an area for study, research, and practice that places a priority on improving health and achieving equity in health for all people worldwide. Global health emphasizes transnational health issues, determinants, and solutions; involves many disciplines within and beyond the health sciences and promotes interdisciplinary collaboration; and is a synthesis of population-based prevention with individual-level clinical care.”¹

More specifically, all medical journal editors, regardless of their location, should strive to:

(a) Publish research addressing the greatest global health concerns;

(b) Specifically encourage the publication of innovative and solution-focused research in all fields of medicine, public health, and health promotion; in particular, research applicable to low- and middle-income countries;

(c) Encourage the publication of research from authors in low- and middle-income countries;

(d) Provide free Web-based access to research articles to readers in countries that cannot afford to pay for them;

(e) Provide publication fee waivers for research conducted and authored primarily by researchers from low- and middle-income countries;

For editors in high-income countries:

(f) Invite researchers from low- and middle-income countries to participate on editorial boards of their journals;

(g) Invite researchers from low- and middle-income countries to participate as peer reviewers for articles submitted to their journals;

(h) Invite researchers from low- and middle-income countries to write editorials and commentaries on the local or regional impact of and, if relevant, responses to global health issues to help educate readers in high-income countries about the human costs and consequences of these issues.


Reference