

RBC and its Ethical Commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility of Scientific Communications

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A RBC e seu Compromisso Ético com a Diversidade, Equidade, Inclusão e Acessibilidade nas Comunicações Científicas

La RBC y su Compromiso Ético con la Diversidad, la Equidad, la Inclusión y la Accesibilidad en las Comunicaciones Científicas

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In the last decade, the terms “Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility” (DEIA) became quite popular for being the core values in promoting a more fair, equitable and inclusive society to everyone. These guidelines have been frequently addressed by several areas of knowledge in Brazil and in the world, similarly to what occurs in scientific communications. Science should pursue truth and knowledge accessible to everyone, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, religion, nationality or impairment.

In view of this perspective, the Committee on Publication Ethics – COPE¹ disclosed a document with a set of required changes to establish a more diverse and inclusive society. On September 2022, the database SciELO listed the guidelines DEIA as criteria for acceptance and permanence of scientific journals at the Collection SciELO Brasil through the whole flow of scientific communication².

The *Revista Brasileira de Cancerologia* (RBC), along its 75 years of life have incorporated the ethical commitment of promoting the adoption of DEIA criteria through the whole editorial flow with the objective of tackling with the inequalities, inequities and disparities in health and ensure the utmost possible scientific plurality³. One of RBC's outstanding characteristics have been the presence of women at the editorial board, as authors of articles published and as peer-reviewers to fight gender asymmetry and promoting equity. Women were the first authors or senior investigators in 76.55% and 66.3%, respectively, among more than 300 articles published by the journal from 2019 to 2022. In addition, women account for more than 50% of RBC's editorial team, editorial board and reviewers.

To promote the diversity, the authors are being encouraged to self-declare their gender, race/color and origin when submitting the articles and reviewers are being asked as well to do the same. These measures are meant to adopt actions to promote the inclusion of specific populations who are poorly represented. The RBC's ethical guidelines emphasize that the reviewers should not allow their reviews to be influenced by the origin of the manuscript, nationality, political or religious beliefs, biological sex, gender identity or other characteristics of the authors or even commercial interests⁴. The RBC will not condone any type of discrimination within the scientific environment.

Along the editorial process, RBC's Editors have valued and prioritized the studies which investigate subgroups and specific populations that contribute to minimize the existing social inequities in oncological care. Another aspect found in the articles published by RBC is the diversity of themes about cancer and its different types. The studies involve authors from all the Federation Units of Brazil and from other countries with diversified professional background, further to undergraduate, specialization, Master's Degree and Doctorate students.

All of RBC's publications have open access and are cost-free for the authors, ensuring universal availability to everyone interested. The presence of the journal at the social medias have ensured the proximity of the science with society, granting the population access to innovative and quality information. Since 2023, to broaden the accessibility to scientific knowledge and its dissemination, articles and social media posts are being published in Portuguese, English and Spanish.

The actions described herein as well as other RBC's ethical commitment have favored the construction of a plural and democratic space. Other initiatives are being planned to ensure the fulfillment of the principles listed.

It is anticipated that authors, reviewers and the editorial body of RBC continue to reiterate their commitment to

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the journal's guidelines and that it becomes possible to help to minimize the inequities and disparities in scientific community, in addition to collaborating to meet Objective 5 of Sustainable Development: "achieve gender equality and empower women and girls"⁵.

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