

This policy outlines BJGG' expectations for communications directed towards BJGG staff and/or contributors (authors, editors, reviewers) in the context of BJGG activities, and how BJGG will respond in cases where such expectations are not met.

BJGG will not tolerate any form of harassment or non-professional conduct directed to PLOS staff/contributors in the context of their work for BJGG, such as

- disparaging, insulting, or accusatory ad hominem remarks
- abusive, discriminatory, or hostile language or behavior
- threats targeting an individual
- repeated inquiries to BJGG challenging an editorial outcome, repeated resubmission or complaints after an appeal is declined, or excessive inquiries about an issue that is under investigation

In cases where we are aware that communications/interactions do not meet these expectations, BJGG will take steps as needed to address the situation, which may include one or more of the following:

- providing feedback to the individual(s) involved
- ceasing to engage or communicate on a particular issue
- making changes to the assigned editor/reviewer(s) for a submission
- declining a manuscript without further editorial consideration or peer review
- reviewing or changing an individual's editorial board status
- seeking support of an individual's affiliated institution/employer in addressing concerns about that individual's behavior
- discussing the situation in anonymized form with Committee on

Publication Ethics (COPE) representatives or at a COPE forum