Instructions for authors

General

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Michael is published four times a year. Supplementary volumes are published at irregular intervals. All manuscripts are subject to peer review.

Michael publishes articles in Norwegian or in English, depending on topic and main readership. Other languages may be considered if found applicable by the editors.

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All material submitted should in general conform to the *Uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals* (the Vancouver style: *www.icmje.org*). Authors may ask for the editors' consent to publish articles from e.g. history or social sciences in the format often used in these fields, where references and comments are given in footnotes or endnotes. References should then be written in the Vancouver-style and appear only in the notes.

All authors must give signed consent to publication and give the e-mail address of the author to whom correspondence and proofs should be sent. Manuscripts should be named with the first author's family name and a key word/short title and submitted by e-mail to one of the two editors:
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Papers

Review articles as well as *original articles* are welcome. Articles should normally not exceed 3 000 words and 30 references. The contents of original articles should be arranged in the customary order: Abstract, Introduction, Material and Methods, Results, Discussion, Conclusions, although these chapters may be given other headings for reasons of style. References, Tables and Figures should follow.

The title page should bear the name of the author(s) and the title of the article (brief but comprehensive) (bold). Page two should start with an abstract (italics), not exceeding 200 words. Section titles should be given in bold and, if necessary, a second (paragraph) level of titles should be given in italics. A list of the authors' names, addresses (including e-mail) and affiliations should be given after the references (italics).

References should conform to the Vancouver style, being numbered consecutively in the order in which they are first mentioned in the text. Only published and publicly available papers should be included among the references. References to archive material should clearly identify the archive and include a proper document address. Identify consecutive references in text with arabic numerals in parenthesis, starting at (1). List all authors for each source when six or less; when seven or more, give first six et al. Footnotes or endnotes can be accepted under special circumstances, see above. Arabic numbers are used for the notes.

Figures should be submitted electronically, preferably in jpeg-format (min 300 dpi), and as separate attachements. They must be professionally drawn and photographed. Letters, numbers and symbols must be clear and in proportion to each other. Colour photographs and graphs may be reproduced in colour, but they should also be fit for being printed in black and white, if so decided by the editors.

Tables should be typed double spaced, each on a separate page, with heading and number underneath.

Figures and tables should not duplicate information given in the text of the article.

If applicable, short *Acknowledgements* may be added at the end of the article, after *References.*

Proofs are sent in PDF-format by e-mail to the corresponding author. Authors are requested to check their proofs carefully for printer's errors and return them within 48 hours.

Example of the first and the last page of a paper in *Michael* in print:

Sigmund Simonsen

Playing by the rules
- Scientific misconduct in a legal perspective

A simple lesson to learn from the recent Norwegian research scandal is that there are rules that need to be observed and appreciated. This requires knowledge, understanding and awareness both at the individual level and institutional level.

Given the increasingly complex framework for research, it may sound a tall order, but it is nevertheless reasonable. Contrary to popular belief, rules are not meant to be an inappropriate hindrance for good research. They are meant to foster good research. Ethical, professional and legally acceptable research is crucial for public trust and the legitimacy of science.

Fortunately the awareness of and attitude towards this normative framework is changing. The recent case has speeded things up in Norway, and it has certainly made it easier to explain why we do have and must have rules. For in order to play by the rules, one must know the rules.

This paper concentrates on the rules and regulations governing medical and health related research in general, in the wake of the hereinafter called Norwegian research scandal. Three questions can be raised:
- Are there rules?
- Is there a problem with regard to the rules and regulations?
- If so, what should be done to address the problem?

Are there rules?
In March, 2006, I was asked to talk about whether fraud in science is illegal or not? I was a bit surprised by that request. Is anyone in doubt, I thought.

My answer was of course a simple but clear yes. There are rules. Medical and health related research is subject to a magnitude of rules, just like any other activity (1,2) (tables 1, 2, 3).

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