1.0 PURPOSE
This policy concerns ethical standards for the steps in scientific publication from writing a paper to its publication and dissemination. Ethical standards for research are covered separately by the American Heart Association (AHA) policy Standards on Falsification of Scientific Data, Plagiarism and Academic Fraud.

2.0 POLICY AND IMPLEMENTATION
All AHA journals follow the Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journal.¹

3.0 GENERAL

3.1 Manuscripts
Manuscripts are considered on the understanding that they contain original material, that the manuscript and material within the manuscript have not been published, and that they are not being considered for publication elsewhere in whole or in part in any language, except as an abstract. The authors also certify that any and all other work in preparation, submitted, in press, or published that is potentially overlapping, either in the actual data presented or in the conceptual approach, is included with the original submission. Any material within the manuscript that has appeared elsewhere must be cross-referenced, and permission to use or adapt the material must be received, in writing, from the copyright holder.

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3.2 Authorship Requirements
As stated in the Uniform Requirements, credit for authorship requires substantial contributions to:
- conception and design, or acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data;
- drafting the manuscript or revising it critically for important intellectual content; and
- final approval of the version to be published.

All 3 conditions must be met.

For 11 of the AHA journals (Arteriosclerosis, Thrombosis, and Vascular Biology; Circulation; Circulation: Arrhythmia and Electrophysiology; Circulation: Cardiovascular Genetics; Circulation: Cardiovascular Imaging; Circulation: Cardiovascular Interventions; Circulation: Cardiovascular Quality and Outcomes; Circulation: Heart Failure; Hypertension; and Stroke), each author must complete the Authorship Responsibility, Criteria, and Contributions section of the "Authorship Responsibility and Copyright Transfer Agreement." For the Journal of the American Heart Association (JAHA), the Authorship Responsibility, Criteria, and Contributions section of the “Open Access Agreement” must be completed. These sections in both Agreements require that the author attests that he or she fulfils the authorship criteria. Authors are required to identify their contributions to the work described in the manuscript.

Any change in authorship after submission must be approved in writing by all authors.
One author should be designated as the corresponding author, and he or she will be identified as such in the published article.

3.3 **Conflict of Interest**
All authors must complete the Authors Conflict of Interest Disclosure Questionnaire. Each author must disclose any financial, personal, or professional relationships with other people or organizations that could reasonably be perceived as conflicts of interest or as potentially influencing or biasing their work.

This disclosure will be published as is after the Acknowledgments section in the accepted article.

Authors must declare all relationships directly relevant to the submitted work. The time frame for this reporting is that of the work itself, from the initial conception and planning to the present. Authors must also declare all relevant relationships outside of the submitted work but that might still be perceived as relevant. All relevant activities outside of the submitted work must be declared for any relevant relationship 5 years prior to the submission of the work.

See Appendix A, Author COI form.

3.4 **Acknowledgments/Sources of Funding/Disclosures**
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Authors **must** completely spell out the names of all grant-funding agencies, with the exception of National Institutes of Health (NIH).

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At least 1 author should indicate that he or she had full access to all the data in the study and takes responsibility for the integrity of the data and the accuracy of the data analysis. Each author is asked to certify that “I have, or a coauthor has, had sufficient access to the data to verify the manuscript’s scientific integrity.” The corresponding author is asked to identify who performed the data analysis.

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b) report any such conflict discovered after initial review of the manuscript.
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For the *Journal of the American Heart Association (JAHA)*, authors sign an “Open Access Agreement,” which is requested via the journals' manuscript submission and peer review system, eJournal Press. The Contribution will be made Open Access under the terms of 1 of 3 Creative Commons Licenses (Appendix C).

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e) If questions arise, the authors must be prepared to submit the original, unaltered files from which the submitted figures were derived.

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As a matter of procedure, if the Editor is conflicted (e.g., if an allegation concerns an associate editor, or if a Guest Editor handled the original paper) then the SPC Chair will review allegations and not the Editor of the journal. Additionally, if allegations about the same issue affect more than one AHA journal, then the SPC Chair will handle all communications while keeping the Editors informed.

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Authors’ disclosures will appear after the “Acknowledgments” section in the accepted article.

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   Please insert brief explanatory information describing each relationship in each category in the chart below. Note these definitions of the categories:

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Date Signed: _________________________