Spartan Medical Research Journal Informed Consent Policy

The Spartan Medical Research Journal (SMRJ) believes that authors need to observe the highest standards with respect to publication ethics of studies involving human subjects as specified in the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) 1 and ICMJE recommendations for reporting findings obtained from human subjects. 2 Human subjects have a right to privacy that should not be infringed with authors having obtained prior informed consent.

Any potentially identifying information should be removed from any SMRJ submissions in written descriptions, photographs and pedigrees unless the information is essential for scientific purposes and the patient (or parent or guardian) has given written informed consent for publication. Informed consent for this purpose requires the patient be shown the entire submitted and accepted manuscript to be published.

When indicated, a statement describing informed patient consent processes must be included as part of the manuscript under the sub-heading “Consent Process.” The journal requires at the point of submission that a consent form has been completed for any case report or clinical image in which an individual or a group of individuals can potentially be identified.

Completed consent forms are not to be submitted to the SMRJ Editorial office. Completed forms should be held by the Principal Investigators of studies reported in submissions and/or treating institution according to healthcare system-approved procedures. Consent form should be available to the SMRJ Editor-in-Chief if specifically requested.

If the patient or relatives of a deceased patient cannot be traced and consent cannot be obtained, the case report can only be considered for publication if it is sufficiently anonymized. The Editorial Board reserves the right to reject papers for which the ethical aspects are, in the Board’s opinion, open to doubt. Please contact the Editorial Office if you have any queries regarding consent.

References: