

Ref. No.: ASCOMS/PS/DP/2026/ 2260

Dated: 29th August, 2026

OFFICE ORDER

Subject: Strict prohibition of unethical, unauthorized and financially motivated practices relating to research publications by some Faculty Members and Postgraduate Students.

It has come to the notice of the undersigned that certain complaints and reports have emerged regarding the involvement of some faculty members and other individuals in **unauthorized and financially motivated activities relating to research publications**, including allegedly collecting money from postgraduate students for arranging publications in paid, predatory, dubious or otherwise unsuitable journals, without the knowledge or approval of the concerned Heads of Departments, the Institutional Ethics Committee and the competent authorities of the institution.

The institution views such allegations with **utmost seriousness**. Research publication is an integral component of postgraduate medical education and must be founded upon the principles of **academic integrity, scientific honesty, transparency, proper authorship, ethical approval, originality and adherence to applicable NMC and institutional regulations**. It cannot be permitted to become a source of private financial gain or a parallel commercial activity within or outside the institution.

It is, therefore, hereby ordered as follows:

1. **No faculty member, postgraduate student, resident or any other person associated with the institution shall solicit, demand, collect or accept money from postgraduate students for arranging, facilitating or procuring research publications**, unless such payment is part of a formally approved institutional process and is properly documented.
2. No faculty member shall operate or facilitate any **parallel publication-related business or consultancy** involving postgraduate students of the institution without prior written permission of the competent authority.
3. All research work, including dissertations, original research, case reports, case series, review articles and other academic publications undertaken by postgraduate students, shall strictly follow the applicable requirements of the **Institutional Ethics Committee, Research Committee, concerned Department and competent institutional authorities**, wherever applicable.
4. Faculty members supervising postgraduate students shall ensure that students are not compelled, coerced or induced to make payments to any individual, agency, journal, intermediary or third party for the purpose of obtaining academic publications.
5. The practice of **gift authorship, ghost authorship, buy authorship, plagiarism, intellectual piracy, fabrication or falsification of data, manipulation of research findings, duplicate publication, submission of substantially similar manuscripts to multiple journals, use of another person's research work without due attribution, or any other form of academic misconduct** is strictly prohibited.
6. Postgraduate students are hereby **strongly advised not to hand over money, manuscripts, research data, login credentials, certificates or other academic material to unauthorized individuals or agencies** claiming to guarantee publication, indexing or academic eligibility.
7. Any postgraduate student who chooses to engage with persons or agencies known or reasonably suspected to be involved in **predatory publishing, intellectual piracy, fraudulent**

- publication practices or other unethical activities shall do so at his or her own risk and responsibility. The institution shall not accept responsibility for publications subsequently found to be fraudulent, unethical, retracted, predatory or otherwise non-compliant with applicable academic and regulatory requirements.
8. No publication shall automatically be treated as fulfilling an NMC or institutional academic requirement merely because it has been published online or in a journal. Its acceptability shall be determined strictly in accordance with the applicable NMC regulations, institutional requirements and other competent regulatory provisions prevailing at the relevant time.
 9. Any publication submitted for fulfilment of postgraduate academic requirements may be subjected to **verification of authorship, originality, journal credentials, indexing/status, ethical approval, research methodology and compliance with applicable regulations**. Where serious irregularities are detected, the matter may be referred to the appropriate institutional authority for examination and further action.
 10. If credible information or a complaint is received regarding any alleged violation of this Office Order, the institution may constitute an **Inquiry Committee comprising appropriate senior faculty members/administrative officers and, wherever considered necessary, representatives of the concerned academic or ethics committees**, to examine the matter and submit its findings to the competent authority.
 11. Pending inquiry, where circumstances warrant, the competent authority may take such **interim administrative measures as are permissible under applicable institutional rules**, including restricting the concerned individual from supervising or facilitating specified academic activities, without prejudging the outcome of the inquiry.
 12. If the allegations are substantiated after due inquiry and the person concerned is found responsible, the institution may initiate **appropriate disciplinary/administrative action in accordance with the applicable service rules, institutional regulations and principles of natural justice**. Depending upon the nature and gravity of the misconduct, such action may include warning, adverse administrative action, withdrawal of institutional privileges, restriction of research/supervisory responsibilities, recovery of improperly obtained institutional funds, or other disciplinary measures permissible under the applicable rules.
 13. Where the conduct appears to involve **fraud, financial misconduct, plagiarism, intellectual property violations, falsification of research, deliberate submission of false information, or any other matter warranting reporting to an external statutory/regulatory authority**, the institution reserves the right to refer the matter to the appropriate competent authority in accordance with law.
 14. Heads of Departments shall exercise **enhanced vigilance** over research and publication activities undertaken by postgraduate students under their supervision and shall immediately bring any suspected unethical or unauthorized practice to the notice of the competent authority.
 15. No individual shall be permitted to represent himself or herself as an **authorized agent, representative or intermediary of ASCOMS & Hospital for publication-related activities** unless such authorization has been expressly issued in writing by the competent authority.

The institution wishes to make it unequivocally clear that **academic publications are not commodities to be purchased for the purpose of securing postgraduate eligibility**. The credibility of a medical institution rests substantially upon the integrity of the research conducted and published under its name.

ASCOMS & Hospital has no intention whatsoever of coming under the adverse scrutiny or surveillance of platforms such as **Retraction Watch** on account of unethical, questionable, or academically improper publication practices by any individual associated with the institution. Any retraction, expression of concern, or adverse reporting relating to research published under the name of ASCOMS has the potential to cause serious and lasting damage to the academic credibility, professional standing and institutional reputation painstakingly built over the years. The institution, therefore, shall take all necessary preventive and corrective measures to ensure that its name is not associated with plagiarism, intellectual piracy, fraudulent or fabricated research, predatory publishing, inappropriate authorship or any other form of academic misconduct. Every faculty member and postgraduate student is expected to recognize that the reputation of ASCOMS is a collective responsibility, and no individual shall be permitted to compromise the standing and dignity of the institution for personal academic or financial gain. The administration shall adopt a **zero-tolerance approach towards deliberate academic misconduct, intellectual piracy, predatory publication practices and unauthorized financial exploitation of postgraduate students**, while ensuring that any allegation against an individual is examined fairly and in accordance with due process.

All concerned are directed to take note of this Office Order and ensure **strict and immediate compliance**.

By Order of the Competent Authority


Dr. Pavan Malhotra
Director Principal
99/08/26

Copy to:

1. All Heads of Departments, ASCOMS & Hospital, for strict compliance.
2. Member-Secretary, Institutional Ethics Committee.
3. Chairman/Convener, Research Committee.
4. Coordinator, Medical Education Unit, ASCOMS.
5. All Faculty Members.
6. All Postgraduate Students.
7. Dy.AO (Administration Section).
8. Section Officer, Faculty Section
9. In-charge, IT Cell: for updation on College website.
10. Notice Board.
11. Office record.