



## **Publication Ethics and Malpractice Statement (PEMS)**

In order to safeguard good scientific practice in publishing it is certified that the Conference Proceedings for the 5<sup>th</sup> **International Small Sample Test Techniques Conference, SSTT2018** which took place on 10 – 12 July 2018 at Swansea University Bay Campus, Wales, UK adheres to the following policy:

### **Editorial Board:**

Dr. Robert Lancaster, Swansea University

Dr. Spencer Jeffs, Swansea University

### **Authors and Authors responsibilities:**

The editors confirm that any fees or charges that are required for manuscript processing and/or publishing materials in the conference proceedings shall be clearly stated before authors begin preparing their manuscript for submission; authors are obliged to participate in at least a single blind peer review process; all authors have significantly contributed to the research; the author(s) are obliged to provide retractions or corrections of mistakes; and authors should provide a list of references, financial support; it should also be forbidden to publish the same research in more than one journal.

### **Peer-review process:**

All of the submissions to the conference proceedings have been subjected to at least a single blind peer review administered by the editors of the proceedings. Reviews have been conducted by expert referees, as per the SSTT2018 International Scientific Committee, who have been requested to provide unbiased and constructive comments aimed, whenever possible, at improving the work. Peer-review is defined as "obtaining advice on individual manuscripts from reviewers' expert in the field of publication,". All reviewers should state whether there is a conflict of interest; reviewers should point out relevant published work which is not yet cited; and reviewed articles should be treated confidentially prior to their publication.

### **Publication ethics:**

The editors of the proceedings have taken all reasonable steps to ensure the quality of the materials they publish and their decision to accept or reject a paper for publication have been based only on the merits of the work and the relevance to the journal. Publishers and editors have taken reasonable steps to identify and prevent the publication of papers where research misconduct has occurred; in no event shall a journal or its editors encourage such misconduct, or knowingly allow such misconduct to take place. In the event that a journal's publisher or editors are made aware of any allegation of research misconduct the publisher or editor shall deal with allegations appropriately. Guidelines are available on request for retracting or correcting articles when needed;

and finally publishers and editors are willing to publish corrections, clarifications, retractions and apologies when needed.

**Copyright and access:**

Copyright and licensing information is clearly described on the conference web site; and the way(s) in which the journal and individual articles are available to readers and whether there are associated subscriptions (or pay-per-view fees) is clearly stated.

**Archiving:**

The conference proceedings' plan for electronic backup and preservation of access to the proceedings content in the event the proceedings is no longer published shall be clearly indicated.

**Ownership and management:**

information about the ownership and/or management of a journal shall be clearly indicated on the journal's web site; publishers shall not use organizational names that would mislead potential authors and editors about the nature of the journal's owner.

**The web site:**

All required information is given on the conference website ([www.sstt2018.com](http://www.sstt2018.com)), demonstrating that care has been taken to ensure high ethical and professional standards.

**Name of the journal:**

The title of the conference proceedings 'Conference Proceedings of the 5<sup>th</sup> International Small Sampling Test Techniques Conference 2018' is unique and is not one that is easily confused with other journal(s) or previous conferences or that might mislead potential authors and readers about the journal's origin or association with other journals.

Editor-in-Chief:

Dr. Robert Lancaster

Editor:

Dr. Spencer Jeffs