IJPOT Data and Reproducibility Policy

Purpose: This policy aims to promote data sharing, reproducibility, and adherence to best practices in reporting and registration within the publication process of IJPOT.

Data Availability:

1. **Data Sharing and Author Responsibility**: Authors are encouraged to make all data underlying the findings described in their manuscript fully available without restriction upon publication. This includes raw data, processed data, and any additional materials necessary to reproduce the reported results. Authors are also encouraged to save copies of all data, including raw, processed, and unpublished data, and be prepared to share them upon request by the editorial office or interested parties for the purpose of verification or further analysis.

2. **Data Accessibility Statement**: Authors must provide a clear statement in their manuscript indicating where and how the data can be accessed, including any necessary access restrictions and the specific data repository or platform used for data deposition.

Reproducibility:

1. **Code and Algorithms**: Authors should provide any custom code or algorithms used in their research to facilitate reproducibility. Code should be well-documented, commented, and easily executable by others.

2. **Methods Transparency**: Authors are required to provide detailed descriptions of their methods, including experimental procedures, statistical analyses, and any relevant protocols. This enables readers to assess the validity and reliability of the reported findings.

Use of Reporting Guidelines:

1. **Reporting Standards**: Authors should adhere to relevant reporting guidelines specific to their study design or field of research (e.g., CONSORT for clinical trials, STROBE for observational studies, ARRIVE for animal studies). Compliance with these guidelines helps ensure completeness and transparency in reporting.

Registration of Clinical Trials and Other Study Designs:

1. Clinical Trials: Authors conducting clinical trials or experimental designs must register their trial in a publicly accessible registry recognized by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) or the World Health Organization (WHO) International Clinical Trials Registry Platform (ICTRP) prior to patient enrollment.

2. Other Study Designs: Authors conducting other types of studies, such as observational studies or experimental research involving human or animal subjects, are encouraged to preregister their study protocols in an appropriate registry or repository to enhance transparency and accountability.

Data Protection Policy for Retrospective Studies and Studies Involving Patient Data

This policy outlines the mandatory requirements for protecting patient data in retrospective studies and studies involving patient information. Adherence to these guidelines ensures compliance with ethical standards, safeguards patient confidentiality, and promotes data integrity. Authors maybe asked to add a statement clarifying below questions

1. Data Acquisition

Researchers must clearly document:

- **Source of Data**: Provide details about how the data was obtained (e.g., hospital records, public databases, registries).
- **Authorization**: Confirm whether the data collection was authorized by the institution or organization holding the data. Authors should be prepared to submit relevant permissions or approvals if requested by editorial board
- **Informed Consent**: If applicable, state whether informed consent was obtained from patients or guardians especially in the case studies

2. Data Storage and Protection

Researchers are required to specify:

- **Storage Locations**: Indicate where the data is stored during and after the research (e.g., secure servers, encrypted drives).
- **Security Measures**: Describe the protective measures employed, such as password protection, encryption, or access controls, to prevent unauthorized access.
- **Compliance with Regulations**: Confirm compliance with relevant data protection laws based on the study's jurisdiction.

3. Data Anonymization

To protect patient privacy, researchers must:

- **State Anonymization Status**: Specify whether the data was anonymized before analysis.
- **Anonymization Steps**: Provide details on the methods used to anonymize the data (e.g., removing identifiers, aggregating information).
- **Verification of Anonymization**: Confirm that anonymized data cannot be linked back to individual patients by unauthorized parties.

4. Post-Research Data Handling

Researchers must clarify the status of raw data upon study completion:

- **Retention Policy**: Indicate where and how the raw data will be stored (e.g., institutional repositories, secured servers).
- **Access Restrictions**: Identify who will have access to the data post-research and under what circumstances.
- **Data Disposal**: Describe the protocol for securely disposing of data when it is no longer required, if applicable.

Failure to provide clear and accurate information regarding data protection may result in the manuscript's rejection or a request for further clarification.

Policy Review: This Data and Reproducibility Policy will be periodically reviewed and updated to ensure alignment with evolving standards and best practices in scientific publishing.