Explanation of "Ghostwriting" and "Guest Authorship"

"Ghostwriting" occurs when someone has made a significant contribution to a publication without their participation being disclosed as a co-author, or without their role being mentioned in the acknowledgements section of the publication.

"Guest authorship" (also known as **"honorary authorship"**) occurs when an author's contribution is negligible or non-existent, yet they are still listed as an author or co-author of the publication.

To counteract cases of ghostwriting and guest authorship, the journal's editorial board should implement appropriate procedures specific to their field or discipline, or introduce the following measures:

1. The editorial board should require authors to disclose the individual contributions of each author to the publication (including their affiliation and contribution details, i.e., information on who developed the concept, assumptions, methods, protocol, etc., used in preparing the publication); however, the primary responsibility lies with the corresponding author submitting the manuscript.

2. The editorial board should clarify in the "Instructions for Authors" that ghostwriting and guest authorship constitute scientific misconduct, and any detected cases will be exposed, including notifying relevant entities (such as the authors' employing institutions, scientific societies, associations of academic editors, etc.).

3. The editorial board should obtain information regarding the funding sources of the publication, as well as the contributions of research institutions, societies, and other entities ("financial disclosure").

4. The editorial board should document all instances of scientific misconduct, particularly breaches and violations of ethical principles in science.