WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT PREDATORY/DECEPTIVE JOURNALS?

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Declarations

No conflicts of interest to declare
Predatory journals, also known as ‘undesirable’, ‘deceptive’, ‘fake, or pseudo-’ journals, pose a real challenge for the academic community and the public.
"Predatory Journals are those that charge an article processing charge (APC) to authors, yet do not have the hallmarks of legitimate scholarly journals such as peer review and editing, editorial boards, editorial offices, and other editorial standards... the motive is financial gain".

From Ferris LE & Winker MA. Ethical issues in publishing in predatory journals. Biochemia Medica 2017; 27(2); 279-84.
Most likely everyone here has had some contact from one of these journals (or publishers)

- Unsolicited emails asking you to submit a manuscript (or be on the editorial board, etc.)
Dear Ferris, Lorraine E.; Winker, Margaret A.

Warmest greetings!

We get to know your valuable article with the title *Ethical issues in publishing in predatory journals* which has been published in *Biochimia Medica*, and the topic of the paper has impressed us a lot.

The paper has drawn attention and interest from researchers and scholars specializing in related fields.

**Contribute Your Research Paper**

Started with an aim to advance the communications within scientific community, specialists and scholars in different fields can get the cutting-edge scientific research results from *International Journal of Biomedical Science and Engineering*. In light of the novelty, advance, and possible extensive use of your research results, we sincerely invite you to send other unpublished articles of related fields to the journal. Your further research on this article is also welcomed.

If you have any interest, please click the link below for more information:

[http://www.ijbse.org/submission](http://www.ijbse.org/submission)

**Joining Us as one of the Editorial Members/Reviewers**

On behalf of the journal’s Editorial Board, we are very pleased to invite you to join us as one of the editorial board members/reviewers of *International Journal of Biomedical Science and Engineering*. You were invited on the strength of your academic background and rich experience in this field. We believe that this opportunity will promote international academic collaborations in the future.

You can click the link below to get more information about us:

[http://www.ijbse.org/joinus](http://www.ijbse.org/joinus)
Dear Lorraine E. Ferris, Margaret A. Winker

Warm greetings!

Your article with the title *Ethical issues in publishing in predatory journals which has been published in Biochimia Medica* has left a deep impression on us.

The paper has attracted attention from researchers and scholars specializing in related fields.

Aiming at advancing the development of scientific community, *International Journal of Clinical and Experimental Medical Sciences* provides specialists in various scopes with good access to the latest scientific researches. Given the advance, novelty, and possible extensive use of your research results, we sincerely invite you to send other unpublished articles that have similar topics to the journal. Your further research on this article is also welcomed.

Please click the link below to know more information:

http://www.clinexpmed.org/submission

On behalf of the Editorial Board of the journal, we feel very honored to invite you to join our team as the editorial board member or reviewer of *International Journal of Clinical and Experimental Medical Sciences*. In terms of your academic background and expertise in this field, we believe that you may be the most suitable candidate for this position. We hope that your position as the editorial board member/reviewer will promote the development of scientific researches in this field.

More information, please refer to:

http://www.clinexpmed.org/joinus
What are the characteristics associated with predatory journals?

Distort who they are and what services they offer

Goal is financial profit, not scholarly excellence
- Lack peer review (so anything submitted is published)
- Fail to provide editorial services or meet editorial standards
- Article Processing Charge yet no standard "services" are provided except publication
Spectrum of Predatory Journals

- Lack transparency about the Article Processing Charge (APC)
- Deceive people about its indexing and impact factor
- Do not archive
- Deceive people by hijacking journal websites or have a website that looks a lot like a legitimate journal
- Deceive people about the editorial offices, editor, editorial board, etc.
Some are easy to detect and some are very sophisticated

- Processing fees upfront
- Lists of the editor and editorial board
- Instructions to authors are sophisticated
- Instructions to reviewers listed
- Clues --- publisher is known as a predator; only one paper came up in the search; submitting to an email address
Many authors publish in these journals without knowing its predatory (or discover it too late)

Many academics have their name “taken” and used to legitimize these journals (e.g. added to the journal’s editorial board, named as an editor, etc without consent). Or they find out too late it is not a legitimate journal
Some authors publish in these journals because of the quick turnaround to acceptance and guaranteed publication.

Some academics agree to be on editorial boards or names as editors for financial and/or professional gain.
Predatory publisher article search

- According to the Ottawa Citizen, CIHR has not (January 2018) identified any of its funded research as appearing in a predatory journal.
- However, the Citizen indicated in Jan 2018 that one large predatory publisher (OMICS) has a search engine for all its papers, and many Canadian researchers appear in the search results, including those with CIHR funding.
Open Access Journals

Make the best use of researched information from 700+ peer reviewed, Open Access Journals operated by 50,000+ Editorial Board Members and esteemed reviewers and 1000+ Scientific associations in Medical, Clinical, Pharmaceutical, Engineering, Technology and Management fields.

Meet Inspiring Speakers and Experts at our 3000+ Global Conferenceseries Events with over 600+ Conferences, 1200+ Symposia and 1200+ Workshops on Medical, Pharma, Engineering, Science, Technology and Business.

Open Access Journals

Open Access initiative is committed to make genuine and reliable contributions to the scientific community without restricting the access of published content. This publisher hosts over 700+ leading-edge peer reviewed Open Access Journals and organizes over 3000 International Conferences all over the world. Obtained enormous global visibility and tremendous response from the authors and readers from all over the world inspired the publisher to maintain reputed Open Access Journals in various scientific disciplines. The journals have over 15 million readers and the reputation and success earned can be attributed to the strong Editorial Board which contains over 50,000 eminent personalities that ensure a rapid, qualitative and quick review process. More than 1000 International Societies are supporting in making scientific information Open Access, International Conferences are rendering perfect platform for global networking for the renowned speakers and scientists across the globe through a most exciting and memorable scientific event filled with much enlightening interactive sessions, world class exhibitions and poster presentations.

Peer Reviewed Open Access Journals

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<th>Journals by Subject</th>
<th>Clinical &amp; Medical Journals</th>
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<td>Agri and Aquaculture</td>
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<td>Bioinformatics &amp; Systems Biology</td>
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<td>Materials Science</td>
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We performed a search in 2018 of the OMICS database for articles authored by U of T-affiliated faculty:

- 128 articles found by 78 different corresponding authors
- 40 corresponding authors from U of T; 38 corresponding authors from a U of T-affiliated hospital
- 11 authors published more than one article
  - 6 from U of T, 5 from the affiliated hospitals
- one affiliated hospital researcher had 17 articles in OMICS publications alone
Of the 78 different corresponding authors:

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The Citizen submitted a junk manuscript to an OMICS journal in 2016; the manuscript’s title contained two words that weren’t even real. The article was accepted and published.

The Citizen then notified OMICS that the article was fake- OMICS retracted it after agreeing that it did not meet their standards.
Predatory Conferences

- The Citizen proceeded to resubmit the identical manuscript for an OMICS-sponsored conference, and it was accepted (again)
- Once accepted they were asked to pay $1500 USD to have it included in the conference program
- We contacted one of our own faculty members who was listed as a conference organizing committee member
2017 Nature study by Moher et al

- Looked at 1907 articles from 220 predatory journals, which collectively studied 2 million human subjects and 8,000 animals
- Only 40% cited ethics approval by ACC/REB vs 70-90% in mainstream journals
- Top two countries for authors were India and USA
- 73% of studies did not list funding sources; 17% of studies were funded by NIH
- Authors estimate that data from >18,000 funded biomedical studies are contained within poorly accessible predatory journals
Since financial gain is their goal, these journals will stop publishing if it is not a profit-making venture.

Need to educate authors and others about predatory journals and take steps for those who knowingly contribute to these journals so that we can put them out of business.
- Educating the academic community includes helping them to identify these journals
- Sometimes the demarcation between legitimate open-access journals and predatory journals is not clear
- New journals or journals from low/middle income countries sometimes can be wrongly identified as predatory
Three approaches to identifying predatory journals

1. Lists of potential, possible and probable predatory journals (Jeffrey Beall)
2. Lists of legitimate journals (Directory of Open Access Journals - DOAJ)
3. Checklist for authors (Think. Check. Submit and University of Toronto checklist).
Choose the right journal for your research

Sharing research results with the world is key to the progress of your discipline and career. But with so many publications, how can you be sure you can trust a particular journal? Follow this check list to make sure you choose trusted journals for your research.
IDENTIFYING DECEPTIVE PUBLISHERS: A CHECKLIST

Deceptive publishers (also commonly referred to as “predatory journals”) are for-profit entities that purport to publish high quality academic research, but who do not follow accepted scholarly publishing best practices. Their ultimate goal is to make money, not publish quality research. A deceptive publisher may acquire the copyright to your research but never publish it. A deceptive publisher may also publish your work, but then disappear, resulting in there being no public record of your published article.

The aim of this checklist is to assist you in avoiding publishing your work in a low-quality deceptive publication. Being associated with a deceptive publisher can lead to financial loss as a result of inappropriate fees, or be harmful to your reputation and that of your institution, even possibly impeding promotion and tenure.

If any of the following statements are true, do not submit your work. These are tactics commonly used by deceptive publishers:

- Publication is guaranteed
- You received a spam-like unsolicited email invitation to publish your work (Note: These are different in nature than emails received from organizations you belong to or have published with in the past)
- The articles published in the journal do not match the journal’s title and stated scope

Common Practices of Deceptive Publishers

When none of the above criteria exist, it is often difficult to determine whether or not a publication is legitimate. The following are some of the typical practices used by deceptive publishers. An accumulation of negative indicators can point to a deceptive publisher.

PROCESS AND TIMELINE

Match this information with information from reputable publishers:

- Publication is guaranteed
- The review process is efficient, lacking information, or not apparent
- The journal requires copyright transfer during the submission process
- Copyright is typically transferred after the acceptance of manuscripts. Some journals require transfer of copyright before submission.

ARTICLE PROCESSING CHARGES (APCs)

Many open access journals ask for Article Processing Charges (APCs). These charges are paid at the time of acceptance. The payment is required before acceptance.

INDEXING, IMPACT FACTOR AND ARCHIVING

The journal is not indexed where it claims to be indexed or where you would expect it to be indexed.

DO NOT CONFUSE JOURNALS FROM THE GLOBAL SOUTH WITH DECEPTIVE JOURNALS

When deciding whether to publish in a journal, please consider the following:

- Talk to your supervisor and colleagues.
- For more information and resources visit http://oneresearch.library.utoronto.ca/deceptiverpublishing
- Consult your Liaison Librarian.
Principles of Transparency and Best Practice in Scholarly Publishing

WAME has collaborated with the Committee on Publication Ethics, the Directory of Open Access Journals, and the Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association to develop the following Principles. The Principles are available on the Web sites of all the participating organizations.

Date of Publication: January 15, 2018
WAME, COPE, DOAJ and OASPA have membership criteria they use to access whether a journal is suitable for membership.

These organizations have published the principles they use for membership.
Some issues faced by editors/publishers of legitimate journals

- No editor or editorial office to contact about issues and no oversight/governance
  - article already published in a legitimate journal now published in a predatory journal (plagiarized paper)
  - the predatory journal uses the legitimate journals old domain name (claims the URL and puts up a site that mimics the legitimate journal)
  - name of the journal mimics the legitimate journal name
Institutions

Need to educate their faculty and trainees about:

- existing tools to identify predatory journals
- ethical and professional issues in contributing to predatory journals
- develop consequences for contributing to predatory journals

- Working with the library to put up web resources on both the research and library sites
- Webinar on predatory journals
- Consultation service for authors who have been deceived
Authors

- Use some type of systematic process to decide, as best you can, if the journal is legitimate
- Educate and support trainees in avoiding predatory journals
- Do a periodic google search on your name to see if your identity has been used by a predatory journal
Get me off Your Fucking Mailing List

David Mazieres and Eddie Kohler
New York University
University of California, Los Angeles
http://www.mailavenger.org/

Abstract

Get me off your fucking mailing list. Get me off your fucking mailing list. Get me off your fucking mailing list. Get me off your fucking mailing list. Get me off your fucking mailing list. Get me off your fucking mailing list. Get me off your fucking mailing list. Get me off your fucking mailing list. Get me off your fucking mailing list. Get me off your fucking mailing list. Get me off your fucking mailing list. Get me off your fucking mailing list.

Figure 1: Get me off your fucking mailing list.
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