The Role of Editors in a Changing World: What Editors Need to Know About Irresponsible and Predatory Publication Practices

Presented by:

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Dr. Eddy™ personifies the efforts of Editage to support authors with good publication practices.

Helping Authors Get Published
The Chef, the Actor, and the Scoundrel
We’ve All Seen the Headlines

Major publisher retracts 43 scientific papers amid wider fake peer-review scandal

Watch out for cheats in citation game

The focus on impact of published research has created new opportunities for misconduct and fraudsters, says Mario Biagiolli.


Why You Should Avoid Predatory Journals, Welcome Rigorous Review
Watch THIS Space!

- Blog activities by Jeffrey Beall
  (www.ScholarlyOA.com)

- Various articles by John Bohannon and others

- Watchdog activities and articles by Adam Marcus, Ivan Oransky, and staff
  (www.RetractionWatch.com)
Things That Keep Me Awake at Night
Predatory Practices

- Every facet of the ‘axis of publication’ now has predatory and irresponsible elements of activity associated with it:
  - Editorial Board solicitation
  - Peer Reviewer solicitation/fixing
  - Manuscript solicitation
  - Peer Review promises
  - Predatory Author Services
    - Authorship for sale
    - Plagiarism / data stealing
    - Manuscripts for sale
    - Writing fraud

- My greatest fear is that in 2-years’ time, an author will have a very hard time identifying what are ethical practices. We will not be able to educate fast enough as irresponsible practices become mainstream.
The Development of Active Predatory OA Journals (2010-2014)
The Development of Predatory OA Articles (2010-2014)
Distribution of Predatory OA Articles
By Discipline (2014)
Distribution of Predatory OA Publishers
By Geographic Region

Distribution of Corresponding Authors By Geographic Region

- India: 34.7%
- Asia without India: 25.6%
- Africa: 16.4%
- North America: 9.2%
- Europe: 8.8%
- South America: 2.3%
- Australia: 1.5%
- Impossible to determine: 1.5%

What Makes a Journal Predatory?

Here are some signs to look out for:

• The journal is not indexed by a major database (e.g., Scopus, DOAJ, JCR, etc.).
• The Impact Factor mentioned is not the correct one listed in JCR (Journal Citation Reports, by Thomson Reuters).
• The Editor or the Editorial Board members are not from the correct field of study. You do not recognize any of the names on the Editorial Board.
• The mechanism of peer review for the journal is not clearly stated, and do the terms of publication appear “too good to be true.”
• The article processing charges (APCs) are not clearly stated? The website appears to be overly concerned about the payment of fees.
• The journal or publisher send unwanted e-mails to you, even though you have asked them to stop. The e-mails are not written professionally.
• You cannot easily identify or contact the publisher. The telephone number, mailing address, or e-mail address appears incorrect or is not functioning.
Some Opportunities Are Too Good to be True!
Invitation to Publish

From: Editor - Journal of Immunology & Clinical Research [mailto:Immunology@jscimedcentral.com]
Sent: Wednesday, September 10, 2014 12:06 PM
To: {cut}
Subject: Reg: Letter of Invitation - Journal of Clinical Oncology and Research

Dear Dr. {cut}
Greetings from JSciMed Central!
In view of your scientific reputation and trustworthiness in your field, we would like to invite you to submit a short communication/perspective/Research/Review on your research area for publication in our upcoming issue.

Journal of Clinical Oncology and Research is ardent to promote erudite, pragmatic, and contemporaneous research in the fields of Clinical Oncology and Research through open Access platform. This open access journal facilitates rapid publication with unlimited dissemination of knowledge to readers.

If you are interested, kindly let us know your possible date of submission (OR) Please submit your manuscript to submissions@j-scimedcentral.com (OR) oncology@j-scimedcentral.com
Anticipating your kind positive response
Thanks & Regards

Inhap Ardani
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For more info, please visit our website: http://j-scimedcentral.com/Oncology/earlyonline
This is not a spam message, and has been sent to you because of your eminence in the field. If you do not want to receive any email in future from this journal, please reply with remove/unsubscribe.
Some Opportunities Are Too Good to be True!
Invitation to Participate in Conference Development

From: Epidemiology2013 [mailto:epidemiology2013@omicsgroup.info]
Sent: Thursday, November 01, 2012 9:02 AM
To: {cut}
Subject: Invitation to associate as an Organizing Committee member: Epidemiology-2013, August 21-23, 2013

Epidemiology-2013
International Conference on Molecular Epidemiology and Evolutionary Genetics
Dates: August 21-23, 2013 Venue: Miami-FL, USA
Dear Dr. {cut},
Greetings from Epidemiology-2013!!

OMICS Group is delighted to welcome you to Miami-FL, USA, for the “International Conference on Molecular Epidemiology and Evolutionary Genetics” during August 21-23, 2013. Being a potential and eminent expertise in the field of Epidemiology, Gene technology and Genetic syndromes we would like to honour you by giving the position as an organizing committee member for this esteemed conference, also we would like to honour you by giving an opportunity as a plenary speaker at this conference. The privileges would include 50% discount on the registration fee and an honourable position as a chair/co-chair for the session of your interest. We are anticipating that your significant talk will serve as a wave maker for the future research in the field. Epidemiology - 2013 would lay a platform for the interaction between experts around the world and aims in accelerating scientific discoveries.
“The Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) has become aware of systematic, inappropriate attempts to manipulate the peer review processes of several journals across different publishers. These manipulations appear to have been orchestrated by a number of third party agencies offering services to authors.”

Predatory Author Resources
Paper Mills and Irresponsible Author Support Services

On December 30, 2014, Jeffrey Beal posted “Is This a Paper Mill?” on his ScholarlyOA.com blog where he brought to light some irregularities of an otherwise seemingly very sophisticated author services website.

This was very concerning on many levels:

- It was very sophisticated
- It clearly heavily borrowed elements from Editage and other similar websites; so the company did their homework
- It was clear that an unsuspecting author would never know the difference
While Jeffrey did due diligence on this site and uncovered a connection to a whole host of sites, at Editage we dug very deep and tested the degree of inappropriate behavior they were exhibiting.

- Scholarly recognition certificates
- Offer to write a thesis.
- Questionable NDA agreements (Texas jurisdiction)
- Web traffic focused in Pakistan
- Payment to Dubai

**Predatory Author Resources**

**Paper Mills and Irresponsible Author Support Services**

**Expert 4:**
Your Thesis will be written on your specified topic and provided requirements; if you're not satisfied with the quality of our work, you can ask for free revisions or get all your money back guaranteed!

**Expert 4:**
Prior to delivering your order, our Quality Assurance Department runs a thorough check on the order and makes sure that all your given specifications are met.
There are even more concerning websites where a researcher can buy a manuscript, or buy their way onto a paper. These practices are not only contrary to good publication guidelines, they are considered unethical and can lead to retractions, or worse!

For example, SCIpaper.net is a manuscript “Marketplace” in China.
There are plenty of unethically promoted titles for sale! You can buy to own the manuscript, buy your way onto the author by-line, or solicit the writing of a manuscript customized to your specifications (journal, Impact Factor, timeline to final draft, etc.). These are **NOT** ethical publication practices!

Check out [www.scipaper.net/about.php?part=announce#1](http://www.scipaper.net/about.php?part=announce#1).
Hijacked and Look-alike Journals

Can you spot the hijacked journal?

www.bthla-journal.org

www.abcjournal.org
Predatory Author Resources
Fake Impact Factors and Misleading Metrics

Universal Impact Factor

The Universal Impact Factor is a measure of the frequency with which the “average article” in a journal has period of time. The impact factor is used as standard dimension and the relative importance of a scientific. The Universal Impact Factor is calculated by several scientific methods. No Evaluation Processing Fees.

Real-time Impact Factor
Bestowed with the eminence of the finest service provider for open access journals, CiteFactor with its announcement of a new feature launch called as the ‘Real Time Impact Factor’ for research paper is creating ripples amongst industry enthusiasts.

SIF
Science Impact Factor

International Scientific Indexing

GIF
GLOBAL IMPACT FACTOR

SUBMIT JOURNAL
2015 IMPACT FACTOR

SOURCE: Beall’s List; http://scholarlyoa.com/other-pages/misleading-metrics
Keeping on Top of Things

• Coalition for Responsible Publication Resources (CRPR)
  – www.RPRcoalition.org
  – http://scholarlykitchen.sspnet.org/2015/09/16/validating-author-services-providers-qa-with-donald-samulack
  – A coordinated coalition of vetted publication resources acting responsibly

• Think. Check. Submit.
  – www.thinkchecksubmit.org
  – http://scholarlykitchen.sspnet.org/2015/10/01/think-check-submit-how-to-have-trust-in-your-publisher
  – A program launched by the Open Access Scholarly Publishers’ Association (OASPA); http://oaspa.org/
  – A “check list” to follow before you consider submitting to a journal

Choose the right journal for your research

Disclaimer: The information provided is for educational purposes only and does not constitute legal or professional advice. Always consult with a professional or legal advisor before making any decisions.
Are you submitting your research to a trusted journal?  
Is it the right journal for your work?

Do you or your colleagues know the journal?  
Can you easily identify and contact the publisher?  
Is the journal clear about the type of peer review it uses?  
Are articles indexed in services that you use?  
Is it clear what fees will be charged?  
Do you recognize the editorial board?  
Is the publisher a member of a recognized industry initiative?

Submit, only if you can answer ‘yes’ to most or all of the questions above.
Editage Insights – An Educational Resource (1 of 3)

- Editage Insights (www.editage.com/insights)
  - Tutorials on all aspects of academic publication
  - Guidance at every stage of the publication process
  - Answers to all questions researchers ask
  - Interviews and videos giving practical advice
  - News, updates, and trends from the publishing industry
Editage Insights – An Educational Resource (2 of 3)

Widget “Plug-in” To Add Editage Insights Content to Your Journal Website
Submission and Peer Review

Manuscript status showing unsubmitted even after having paid the article processing charge

Industry Experts

"Predatory publishers use lots of tricks to make people think that they are legitimate"

Career Advancement

Considering presenting a paper at a scholarly conference? Choose carefully

Publication Ethics

Beware of bogus publishers!

Publication Buzzwords

Saving oneself from the clutches of a predatory journal: A case study

Publication Planning

3 "Principles of transparency" to help authors assess journal credibility
What is the “common purpose,” exactly?

*To help preserve the integrity of the scholarly literature by sharing industry knowledge and to ensure transparency, discoverability, and accountability of responsible scholarly services to industry norms, guidelines, and best practices, so that academic authors can make informed decisions at point-of-service when seeking publication support and when publishing their scholarly works.*
This website represents a first phase in an industry-wide call-to-action to discuss, develop, ratify, and launch a coalition of stakeholders representing the publishing community (publishers, journals, academic societies, academic institutions, pharmaceutical companies, scholarly services companies, freelancers, and academic authors) under the structure of a US-based non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation called the Coalition for Responsible Publication Resources, yet to be formed.

This initiative was first formally presented by Donald Samulack, PhD (President, U.S. Operations, Cactus Communications and Editage) during a panel session titled “Predatory Author Services: What Can be Done About it?” that included Hazel Newton (Head of Author Services, Nature Publishing Group), Josh Dahl (Head of Publishing & Associations, Thomson Reuters), and Jeffrey Beall (Scholarly Communications Librarian and Associate Professor, University of Colorado, Denver) at the International Society of Managing and Technical Editors (ISMTE) Annual North American meeting in Baltimore, MA (USA) on Thursday, August 20, 2015. A recording of the panel presentation is hoped to be posted on this site, when
Who is making sense of all of this non-sense?

- Suspected predatory activity
- Industry guidelines
- News articles
- Landscape intelligence
- Government actions
- Industry initiatives
- White papers
- Identified fraud
- Irregular author activity
- Novel findings
- Known spam/scams/schemes
- University e-mail filter capture

CRPR

- Virtual community
- Removal of barriers between industries and entities
- Topic-based community discussion forums
- Notice boards
- Live industry-wide alerts
- Invited video meeting alerts
- Shared directories
  - Members
  - Suspended members
  - Known fraudsters
  - Known e-mail spam
- Shared resources
  - Company contacts
  - Organization contacts
  - University contacts
  - Government contacts
- Organized archives
The Coalition for Responsible Publication Resources
Transparency, Discoverability, and Accountability of Membership

Audit of recognized and sustained best practices

Collaboration, education, and thought leadership

Development and adjustment of Audit

Coalition approval of Membership; point of payment of dues

Hyperlinked to a registered certificate and Web form on Coalition server

Self-report via online Audit achieves Provisional Member status

Consideration of past and current knowledge

Continued vigilance over ongoing feedback and yearly Audit assessments

Audit of recognized and sustained best practices

www.RPRcoalition.org
#RPRcoalition
The Coalition for Responsible Publication Resources
Industry Press Release – Founding Supporters

Cross-Industry Coalition Forges to Collaborate on Solutions to Protect Against Predatory Publishing and Irresponsible Author Support Practices

May 16, 2016 (EDITAGE; Philadelphia, PA, USA) – The Coalition for Responsible Publication Resources (CRPR; www.RPRcoalition.org; @RPRcoalition) is one step closer to its mission to help preserve the integrity of the scholarly literature by sharing industry knowledge of irresponsible and in some cases predatory practices associated with academic publishing. The Coalition is also committed to ensuring transparency, discoverability, and accountability of responsible publishing services to industry norms, guidelines, and best practices, so that academic authors can make informed decisions when seeking publication services and when publishing their scholarly works. The Coalition intends to facilitate communication and collaboration among university, academic society, publisher, scholarly journal, publication services, pharmaceutical, funder, and government stakeholders, worldwide.

• First publisher’s consensus-building conference call and business meeting was held on April 19, 2016
The Coalition for Responsible Publication Resources
CRPR Website Redesign Underway

- New, fresh look in development
- Statement of Mission and Structure
- Navigation to FAQs, Resources, etc.
- Identification of Founding Members, Members, and Other Contributors
- Member entry to communication tools behind the Coalition firewall
- Feedback and whistle-blowing form fields
- Infographics
- Twitter feed and other alerts
- The “Join CRPR” prompt leads to company audit form as part of application process
- Sign-up to receive Coalition news, prompts, and other benefits
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