Developing a journal authenticator tool

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How predatory journals leak into PubMed

Andrea Manca PhD, David Moher PhD, Lucia Cugusi, PhD, Zeevi Dvir PhD, Franca Deriu MD PhD

How stakeholders can respond to the rise of predatory journals

Manoj Mathew Lalu, Larissa Shamsaeer, Kelly D. Cobey & David Moher

Knowledge and motivations of researchers publishing in presumed predatory journals: a survey

Kelly D Cobey,1,2 Agnes Grudniiewicz,3,4 Manoj M Lalu,5,6 Danielle B Rice,6,5 Hana Raffoul,8 David Moher

Potential predatory and legitimate biomedical journals: can you tell the difference? A cross-sectional comparison

Larissa Shamsaeer,5,6 David Moher,5,6 Omy Maduwolu,5 Lucy Turner,5 Virginia Babour,5 Rebecca Burch,5 Jocelyn Clark,5 James Galipeau,5 Jason Robert5 and Beverly J Shea

Stop this waste of people, animals and money

What is a predatory journal?

1. Scoping Review
2. Delphi
3. Consensus & plan of action
What is a predatory journal? A consensus
Consensus Definition

“Predatory journals and publishers are entities that prioritize self-interest at the expense of scholarship and are characterized by false or misleading information, deviation from best editorial and publication practices, a lack of transparency, and/or the use of aggressive and indiscriminate solicitation practices.”
Consensus: Next steps

- A “one stop shop” of resources on predatory journals
  - Database of research, media coverage, policies
  - Educational resources for different stakeholders

- A journal authenticator tool
Journal authenticator tool

• Automated tool to describe journal transparency practices

• Provides the user with information about a journal in order to make a decision

• User-centred design approach which will consider stakeholders including: patients/public; researchers and institutions; journals, publishers and societies
Journal authenticator example

**International Journal of all things A–Z**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>False or misleading information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Behaviour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reports Index Copernicus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uses fake DOIs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contains plagiarised content</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uses archiving</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deviation from best practices</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Behaviour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is a member of COPE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is listed in the DOAJ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uses ORCID ids</td>
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<tr>
<td>Questionably rapid acceptance timeline</td>
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<td>Low quality writing on website</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lack of transparency</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Behaviour</td>
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<tr>
<td>Are peer review reports public?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Is data sharing occurring?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Has verifiable contact information</td>
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- Use API’s where available
- Programming
- Some items harder than others to automate
- Will require validation
What are we doing now?

• Determining values and preferences of patients/public
  • Survey on internet use to obtain health information
  • Focus groups on predatory journals and journal authenticator tool
Seeking funding

• Draft protocol for journals, publishers and societies

• Mitacs Elevate proposal ; Jeremy Ng
  • Looking for an industry partner, ~15k Canadian
Next steps

• Moving forward journal authenticator tool

• Populating the one stop shop with resources
  • ~50 people joined our call to action, will engage these individuals to review and pilot content
Discussion questions

• Should COPE's membership list become a list of acceptable journals for capturing legitimate journals?

• Can COPE develop a process to announce the equivalence of retractions so that an author who unknowingly published with a predatory publisher can submit said article to a legitimate journal?

• Can COPE develop a global compact for journals/publishers to sign to commit to best practices and to oppose actively the work of predatory publishers.
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