

# Developing a journal authenticator tool

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## ANALYSIS

### How predatory journals leak into PubMed

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

Open access

Research

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

Kelly D Cobey,<sup>1,2</sup> Agnes Grudniewicz,<sup>3,4</sup> Manoj M Lalu,<sup>5</sup> Danielle B Rice,<sup>6,7</sup> Hana Raffoul,<sup>8</sup> David Moher<sup>9</sup>

## ANALYSIS

### Predatory journals enter biomedical databases through public funding

Providing guidance to publicly funded authors on how to publish their work in open access journals is likely to reduce the waste of public money, say **David Moher and colleagues**

Andrea Manca,<sup>1</sup> Lucia Cugusi,<sup>1</sup> Andrea Cortegiani,<sup>2</sup> Giulia Ingoglia,<sup>2</sup> David Moher,<sup>3,4</sup> Franca Deriu<sup>1</sup>

Comment | Published: 04 December 2017

## How stakeholders can respond to the rise of predatory journals

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

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Open Access

### Stress testing journals: a quasi-experimental study of rejection rates of a previously published paper



Kelly D. Cobey<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Danielle B. Rice<sup>1,3</sup>, Manoj M. Lalu<sup>1,4,5</sup>, Daniel Abramowitz<sup>6</sup>, Nadera Ahmadzai<sup>1</sup>, Heather Cunningham<sup>7</sup>, Ana Patricia Ayala<sup>7</sup>, Hana Raffoul<sup>8</sup>, Faizan Khan<sup>2</sup>, Larissa Shamseer<sup>2</sup> and David Moher<sup>1,2</sup>

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Open Access



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

Larissa Shamseer<sup>1,2\*</sup>, David Moher<sup>1,2</sup>, Oryi Maduekwesi<sup>3</sup>, Lucy Turner<sup>4</sup>, Virginia Barbour<sup>5</sup>, Rebecca Burch<sup>6</sup>, Jocelyn Clark<sup>7</sup>, James Galipeau<sup>1</sup>, Jason Roberts<sup>8</sup> and Beverley J. Shea<sup>9</sup>

### Stop this waste of people, animals and money

David Moher, Larissa Shamseer, Kelly D. Cobey, Manoj M. Lalu, James Galipeau, Marc T. Avey, Nadera Ahmadzai, Mostafa Alabousi, Pauline Barbeau, Andrew Beck, Raymond Daniel, Robert Frank, Mona Ghannad, Candyce Hamel, Mona Hersi, Brian Hutton, Inga Isupov, Trevor A. McGrath, Matthew D. F. McInnes, Matthew J. Page, Misty Pratt, Kusala Pussegoda, Beverley Shea, Anubhav Srivastava, Adrienne Stevens  
 *et al.*

# What is a predatory journal?

## 1. Scoping Review



RESEARCH ARTICLE

**REVISED** What is a predatory journal? A scoping review [version 2; referees: 3 approved]

Kelly D. Cobey <sup>1-3</sup>, Manoj M Lalu<sup>1,4</sup>, Becky Skidmore <sup>1</sup>, Nadera Ahmadzai <sup>1</sup>, Agnes Grudniewicz<sup>5</sup>, David Moher <sup>1,2</sup>

## 2. Delphi



Open access

Original research

**BMJ Open** Defining predatory journals and responding to the threat they pose: a modified Delphi consensus process

Samantha Cukier <sup>1</sup>, Manoj M Lalu <sup>1,2</sup>, Gregory L Bryson<sup>1,2</sup>, Kelly D Cobey<sup>1,3</sup>, Agnes Grudniewicz<sup>4</sup>, David Moher <sup>1,3</sup>

## 3. Consensus & plan of action



COMMENT · 11 DECEMBER 2019

**Predatory journals: no definition, no defence**

Leading scholars and publishers from ten countries have agreed a definition of predatory publishing that can protect scholarship. It took 12 hours of discussion, 18 questions and 3 rounds to reach.

Agnes Grudniewicz , David Moher , Kelly D. Cobey , Gregory L. Bryson, Samantha Cukier, Kristiann Allen, Clare Ardern, Lerley Balcom, Tiago Barros, Monica Berger, Jairo Bultrago Ciro, Lucia Cupari, Michael R. Donaldson, Matthias Egger, Ian D. Graham, Matt Hodgkinson, Karim M. Khan, Mahibul Mubizela, Andrea Manca, Katrin Millow, Johani Mouton, Marvellous Muchenje, Tom Olijhoek, Alexander Ommaya, Bhushan Patwardhan, Deborah Poff, Laurie Proulx, Marc Rodger, Anna Severin, Michaela Strinzel, Mauro Sytos-Labini, Robyn Tamblyn, Marthie van Niekerk, Jette M. Wicherts & Manoj M. Lalu

# 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



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# Journal authenticator example

## International Journal of all things A-Z

	Behaviour	JAT evaluation
<input type="radio"/> False or misleading information	Reports Index Copernicus	Yes
	Uses fake DOIs	Yes
	Contains plagiarised content	-
	Uses archiving	No
<input type="radio"/> Deviation from best practices	Is a member of COPE	No
	Is listed in the DOAJ	No
	Uses ORCID ids	No
	Questionably rapid acceptance timeline	Yes
<input type="radio"/> Lack of transparency	Low quality writing on website	-
	TOP factor score	1
	Are peer review reports public?	No
	Is data sharing occurring?	No
	Has verifiable contact information	Yes

- 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



Canada Health  
**Infoway**

**Inforoute**  
Santé  
du Canada

# 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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