Confronting Predatory Publishers and Conference Organizers: A Firsthand Account
Origin of the problem

- Open access movement
- Shift from a pay-to-read to a pay-to-publish business model
- Important to remember that NOT all open access publishers are predatory
• Problem is not limited to open access publications
• Predatory entrepreneurs have entered the conference space
• All use deception to entice participation
• Similar warning signs; learning to recognize them is important
Primary goal is PROFIT, not the advancement of science.
Task at Hand

• Increase awareness

• Provide a first-hand account of participation in a [potential/possible/probable] predatory conference

• Discuss implications for scientific integrity
Are researchers at risk?
Common assumptions

- Predatory publishers and conferences are not common and are not of concern
- Scholars are unlikely to be deceived by the overtures of predatory entrepreneurs
- Risk is greater in developing countries due to a lack of publication literacy
# Beall’s List of Predatory Open Access Publishers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of publishers</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>23</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>477</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>693</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>923</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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- Potential
- Possible
- Probable
Predatory publishers ...

- Rarely uphold accepted archival policies and procedures
- And, perhaps even more importantly, fail to perform valid peer-review
As a result, virtually ANYTHING can be published for a PRICE, REGARDLESS of quality.
"I wonder what would happen if I submitted an abstract about predatory publishers to what I suspect is a predatory conference?"
Be diligent – predatory publishers and conference can be difficult to identify.
IN FAIRNESS

• Impressive website
• Pictures and proceedings from previous conferences
• Abstracts available online
• ISBN assigned to abstracts
• Conference hosts attentive to inquiries
• Desirable destination; adequate venue
BEWARE OF

- Ambiguous focus
- Vague acceptance criteria
- Lack of contact information
- Unknown editor/editorial board
- Requirement to transfer copyright upon submission
- Similarity of identity to that of a legitimate journal or conference
TRICKS OF THE TRADE

• Promise of rapid review and publication
• Flattery
• Deception
• Hidden fees and obligations
• Hijacking reputations
Original title: At risk of being lured by a predatory publisher? Not me!

Revised title: Safeguarding evidence-informed nursing practice from predatory publishers

No request to change abstract or content of presentation
So, why do scholars publish in predatory journals?

- Naivety
- Fear of failure or a hostile review
- Desire to get published quickly
- Academic performance expectations
- Ill conceived decisions about quantity and quality of publications
Does it matter?
To advance science...

... scholars’ work must be

- discoverable,
- citable,
- archived for future use, and
- must build on ethical, replicable, peer-reviewed work (Pierson, 2014).
Scholarly Publishing

- Credits authors’ ideas
- Verifies publication date
- Establishes validity of claims
- Creates awareness of claims
- Preserves the record
- Rewards scholars based on metrics
Predatory publishers are often transitory, resulting in a failure to achieve these goals.
• Misappropriation of scarce resources
• Proliferation of ‘junk science’
• Loss of disciplinary knowledge
• Failure to meet tenure and/or promotion requirements
PROTECT YOURSELF

- Ignore e-mail solicitations
- Be vigilant in ‘loaning’ your name/reputation
- Learn to navigate ‘white lists’
- Check websites carefully
- Verify index claims
- Read the fine print
PROTECT YOUR WORK

- Choose publication venues carefully
- Seek the right to publish the full text in a repository
- Archive your work so others can retrieve it
- If you are not sure how to do so, seek help!
PROTECT
OTHERS

- Foster scholarly publication literacy and integrity
- Address performance expectations and standards
- Discuss concerns regarding quantity and quality openly
- Set an example
- Be vigilant in evaluating evidence
Diligence is needed to guard against the lures of predatory entrepreneurs. To do so requires sound scholarly publication literacy and integrity. Careful evaluation is also needed of the sources of evidence that inform research and practice.
Rethinking assumptions ...

Predatory publishers and conferences are of concern.

Scholars are being deceived by predatory entrepreneurs.

Risks extend beyond developing countries and can be reduced via enhanced publication literacy.
Questions?
References


