

# Journal editor's perspective: how to deal with a changing publication system

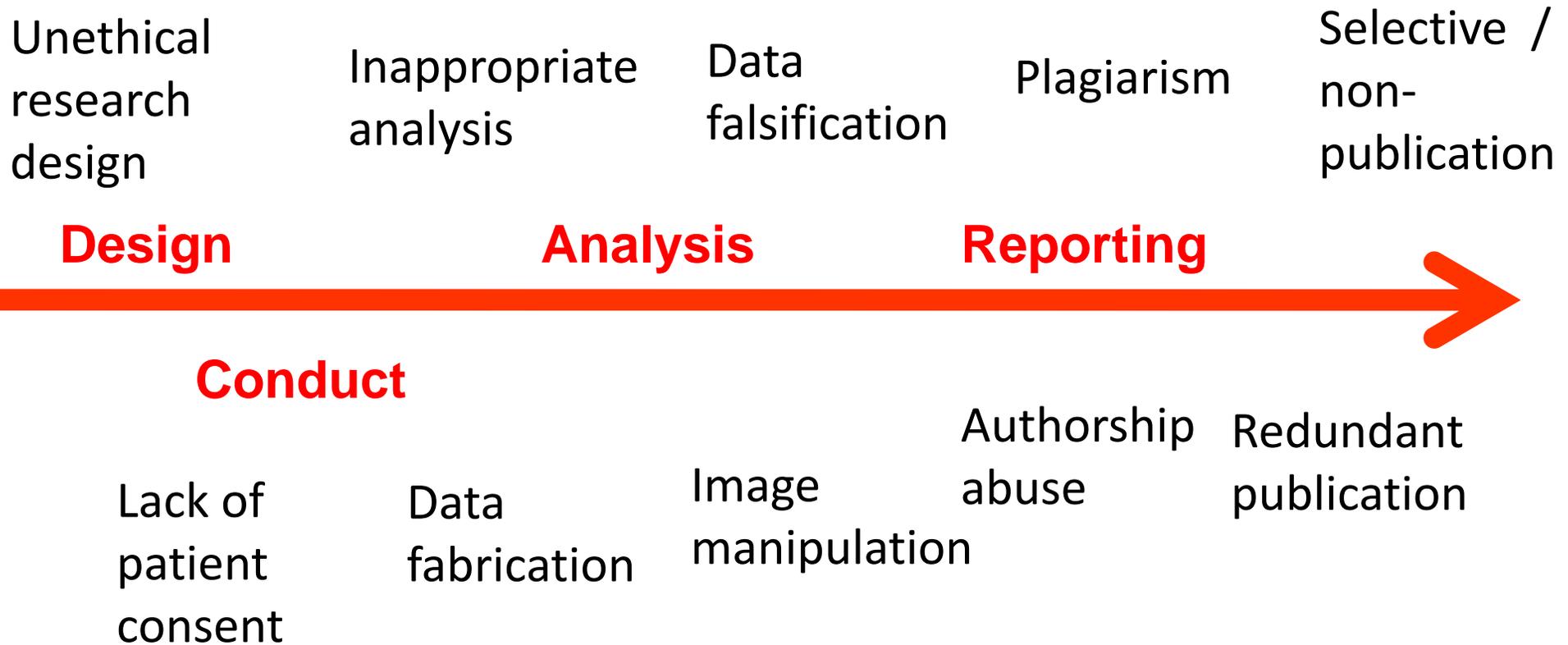
**Prof. Ana Marušić, MD, PhD**

Department of Research in Biomedicine and Health  
University of Split School of Medicine  
Split, Croatia

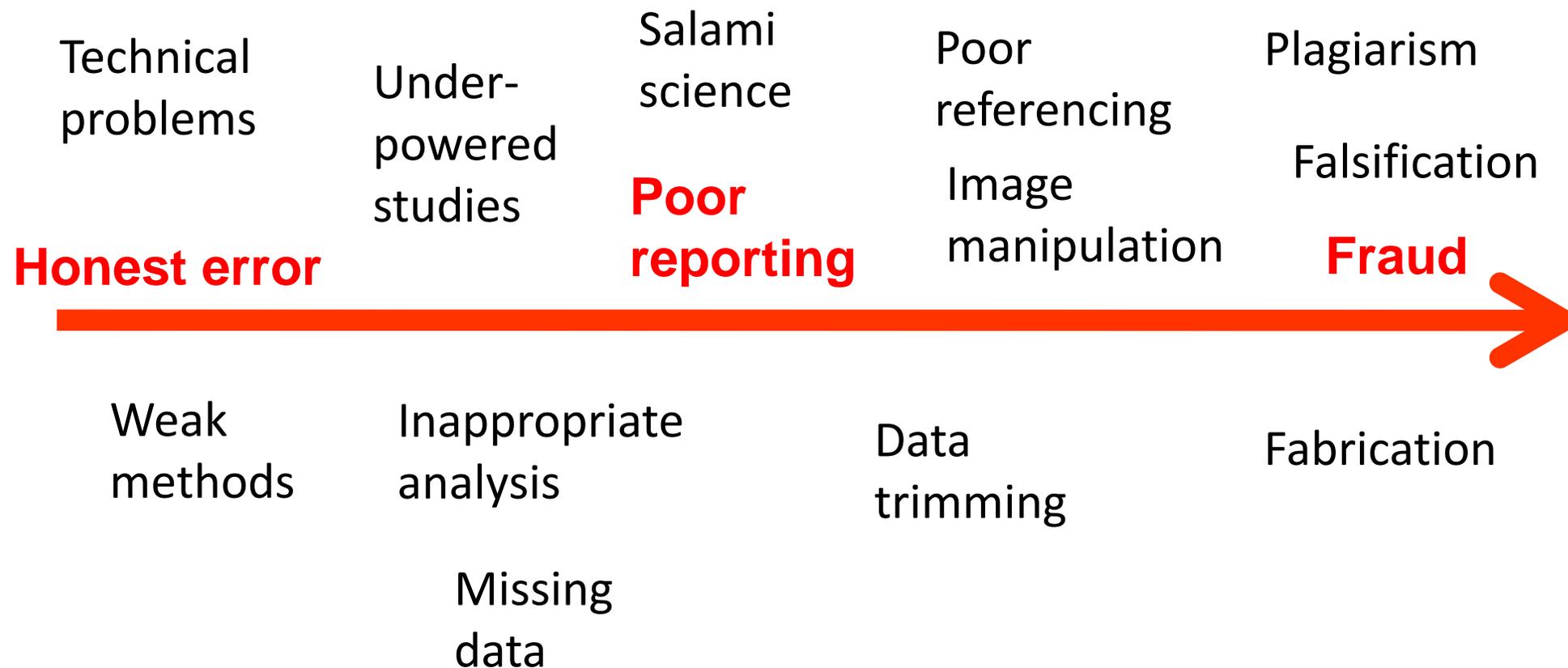
Coeditor in Chief, *Journal of Global Health*



# Research and publication ethics are a spectrum



# Good conduct and misconduct are a spectrum



# Ethical responsibility of editors and journals?

To ensure the integrity of the published record.

*“Most of the allegations and findings center upon publication issues, because scientific publication documents the actions of the researcher.”*

Claxton LD. Scientific authorship.  
*Mutat Res 2001*

If journals and their editors are placed well to detect scientific misconduct, they are also well placed to prevent misconduct and promote responsible conduct of research.

# Responsible conduct of research – editor’s role

## 2.7 Publication and Dissemination

- Responsibility of authors for content
- Authorship
- Openness
- Acknowledging others
- Declaring interests
- Correcting published record
- Publishing negative results
- Same criteria for all publications

## 2.8 Reviewing, Evaluating and Editing

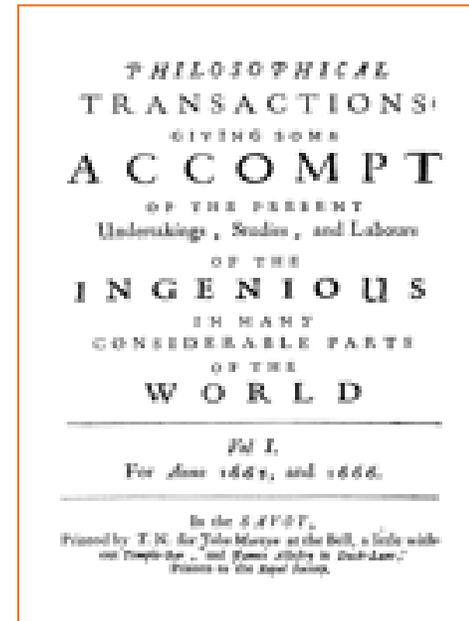
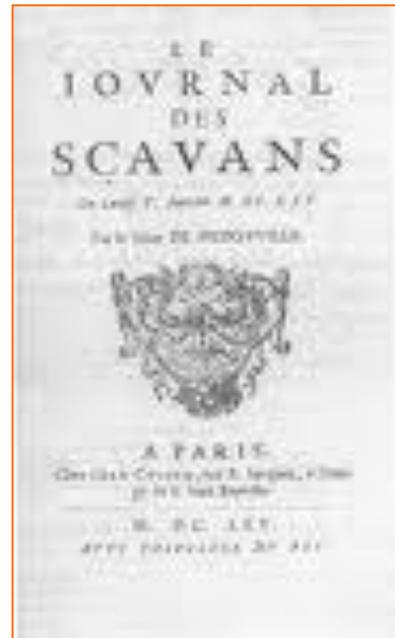
- Responsible refereeing, reviewing and evaluation
- Transparent and justifiable review and evaluation
- Managing conflicts of interest
- Maintaining confidentiality
- Respecting rights of authors and applicants

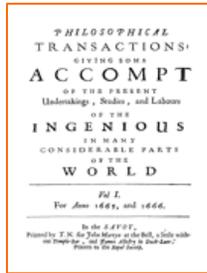


# 1665: The past

*Journal des Scavans*

*Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London*





# 1665: The past

## PHILOSOPHICAL TRANSACTIONS:

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### The Method Observed in Transfusing the Bloud out of One Animal into Another

*Phil. Trans.* 1665-1666 1, 353-358, published 1 January 1665

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### The Method observed in *Transfusing the Bloud out of one Animal into another.*

**T**His Method was promised in the laft of these Papers. It was first practised by Doctor *Lower* in *Oxford*, and by him communicated to the Honourable *Robert Boyle*, who imparted it to the *Royal Society*, as follows ;

First, Take up the *Carotidal Artery* of the Dog or other Animal, whose Bloud is to be transfused into another of the

A a a

same

## Today: Enhanced publication

Digital publications where a narrative part is connected to additional material: datasets, other publications, images, tables, workflows, devices.

Usually has a unique (permanent) identifier

# Enhanced publication



Cognitive Psychology  
Volume 60, Issue 4, June 2010, Pages 291-318

## Cognitive systems struggling for word order

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### Research highlights

- Gesture production and comprehension show a preference for a single, possibly non-native and syntactic word order.
- Improvised gestural communication does not rely on the computational system of grammar (syntax).
- Speech comprehension experiment demonstrates specific word order preferences in the computational system of grammar (syntax).
- The preferences for conflicting word orders in communication and language illustrate a struggle between individual cognitive systems trying to impose their preferred structure on human language.
- The results suggest that human language is the product of evolutionary tinkering.



Sidebar content: Article information

### Cognitive Psychology

Volume 60, Issue 4, June 2010, Pages 291-318  
doi:10.1016/j.cogpsych.2010.01.004  
Copyright © 2010 Elsevier Ltd All rights reserved.

### Article history

Accepted 2010-1-26;

### Keywords

Communication; Grammar; Grammatical diversity; Evolution; Improvised gestural communication; Syntax; Cognitive systems; Human faculty of language;

### Article extras

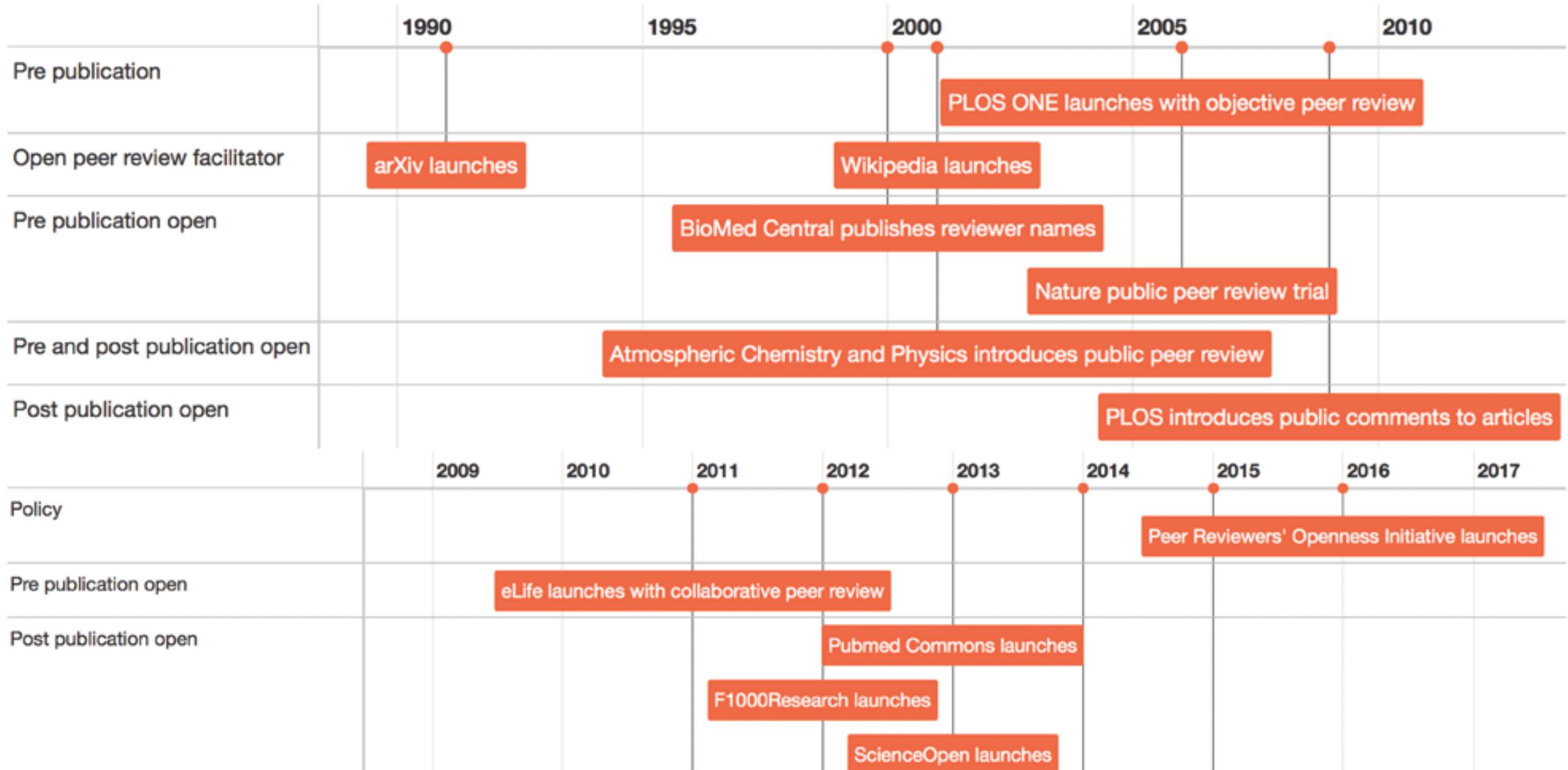
Interactive charts:  
– Figure 1, Figure 2

Interactive maps:  
– Map

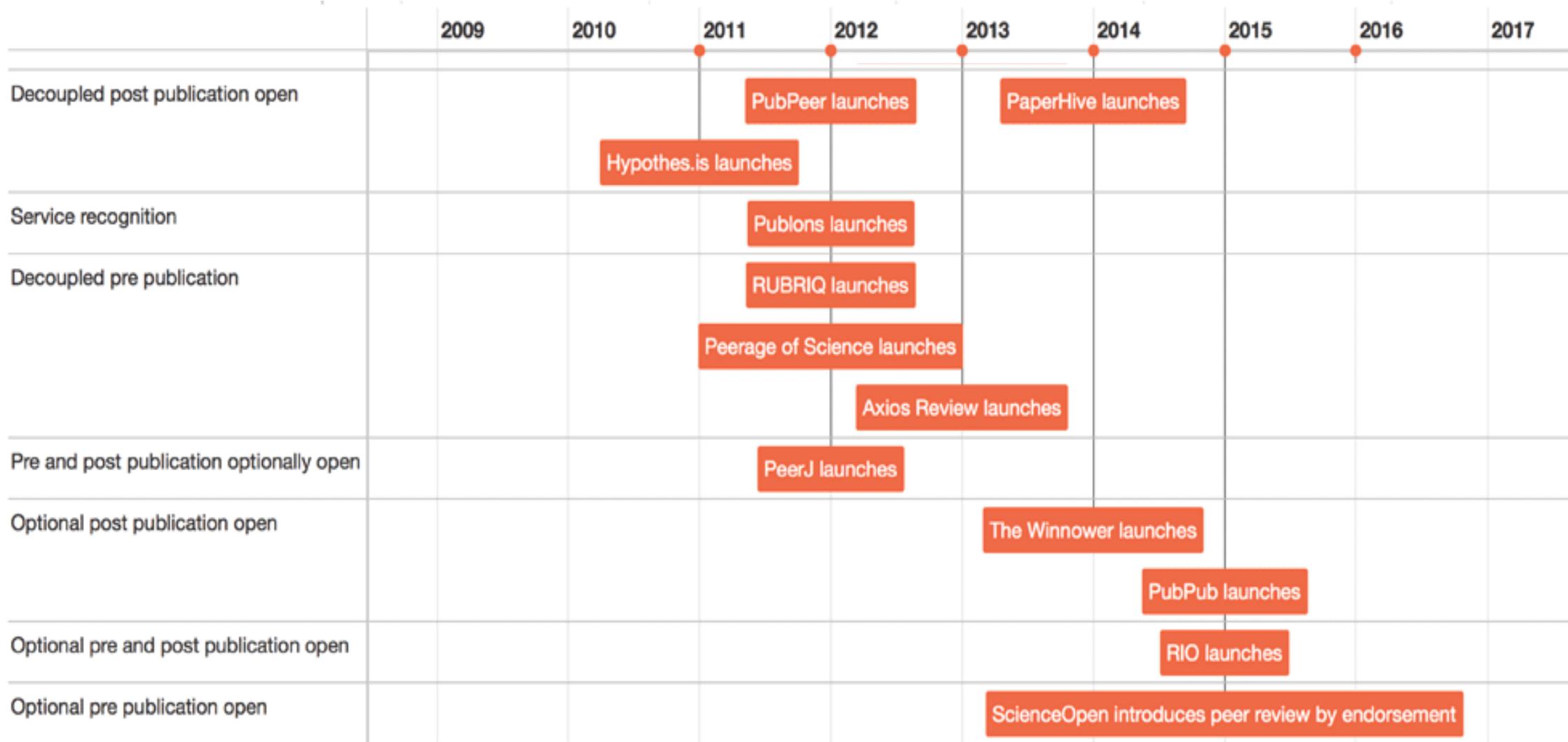
This article contains the following additional content and features:

- Author information (2)
- Related articles (5)
- Figures (6)
- Experimental flowcharts (4)
- Stimuli examples (8)
- Presentation
- Appendix
- References (67)
- Footnotes (3)
- Highlight links

# Development of peer review



# Development of peer review



# Editorial ethics standards

- Implementing international editorial standards
- Peer review process
- Correcting the published record
- Authorship
- Competing interest
- Financial support
- Ethics of research on humans and animals
- Ethics committee approvals
- Trial registration
- Privacy protection
- Image manipulation
- Competing interests of editors in their own journals

# SWOT analysis of editorial role in responsible publishing

STRENGTHS

WEAKNESSES

← internal resources and capabilities

OPPORTUNITIES

THREATS

← factors external to the organization or group

# **STRENGTHS of editors in promoting good research and publishing**

- Authority in the scientific community
- Editorial independence
- Expertise in research
- Responsibility for the integrity of published records
- Power to formulate and implement editorial policies

# OPPORTUNITIES for editors in promoting responsible publishing practices

- Editors well positioned to detect scientific misconduct
- Availability of new technologies for detecting misconduct
- Editorial policies developed by editorial organizations
- Policies developed by national ethics/integrity bodies
- Greater transparency of publications on the web
- Greater transparency of literature corrections on the web

# WEAKNESSES of editors in promoting responsible research publishing

- No mandate for legal actions
- Few means of action: expression of concern and retraction
- Reluctance to get involved in delicate issues
- Possible damage to journal's reputation
- Lack of education and staff to implement adequate procedures

# THREATS to editors promoting responsible research publishing

- Lack of legal regulation and culture of research integrity in the scientific community
- No training available
- Lack of support from stakeholders in scientific publishing (publishers, associations, scientists, academic and scientific community)
- Pressures on editors and journal (publishers, financial conflict of interest)
- Corruption of the scientific community and governments

# THREATS to editors promoting responsible research

Can medical journals lead or must they follow?

Richard Smith

MJA • Volume 183 Number 11/12 • 5/19 December 2005



Ernest Hart, Editor of the BMJ, 1867–1898, made use of his extensive social contacts to promote the issue of child protection.

*“An editor needs, and must have, enemies; he can’t do without them.  
Woe be unto the journalist of whom all men say good things.”*

# Editorial policies



**CSE's** White Paper on Promoting Integrity in Scientific Journal Publications



**EASE** Science Editors' Handbook – Ethical issues



**ICMJE** Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals



**WAME** Policy Statement on the Responsibilities of Medical Editors

**COPE** Code of Conduct, Ethics Flowcharts, Guidelines on Article Retraction



# International Committee of Medical Journal Editors

Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly work in Medical Journals

- Roles & Responsibilities
  - Defining the Role of Authors and Contributors
  - Author Responsibilities—Conflicts of Interest
  - Responsibilities in the Submission and Peer-Review Process
  - Journal Owners and Editorial Freedom
  - Protection of Research Participants

# International Committee of Medical Journal Editors

Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly work in Medical Journals

Publishing & Editorial Issues

- Corrections, Retractions, Republications and Version Control
- Scientific Misconduct, Expressions of Concern, and Retraction
- Copyright
- Overlapping Publications
- Correspondence
- Fees
- Supplements, Theme Issues, and Special Series
- Sponsorship or Partnership
- Electronic Publishing
- Advertising
- Journals and the Media
- Clinical Trials

# Committee on Publication Ethics



## Core practices

Core practices are the policies and practices journals and publishers need, to reach the highest standards in publication ethics, including cases, guidance and events, to support journals and publishers

[View Core Practices](#)



## Cases

All of the cases COPE has discussed since its inception in 1997 have been entered into a searchable database. This database now contains over 500 cases together with the advice given by COPE.

[View Cases](#)



## Flowcharts

Flowcharts are designed to help editors follow COPE's Code of Conduct and implement its advice when faced with cases of suspected misconduct.

[View Flowcharts](#)



## Guidelines

Access COPE's official guidance, including the Retraction Guidelines.

[View Guidelines](#)



## Discussion Documents

Discussion documents aim to stimulate discussion and debate within the academic publishing community. Comments on the documents will be used to inform future guidelines and policies.

[View Documents](#)



## International standards for editors and authors

Position statements setting out international standards for responsible research publication for editors and authors.

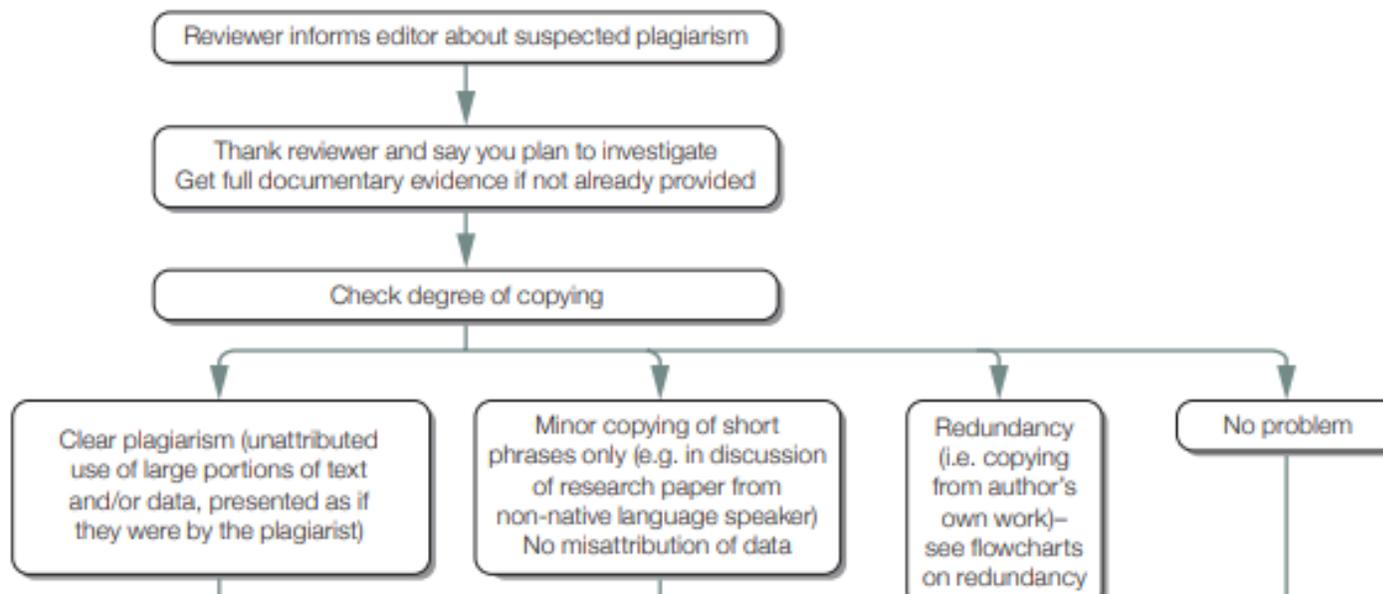
[View more](#)

# COPE Flowcharts



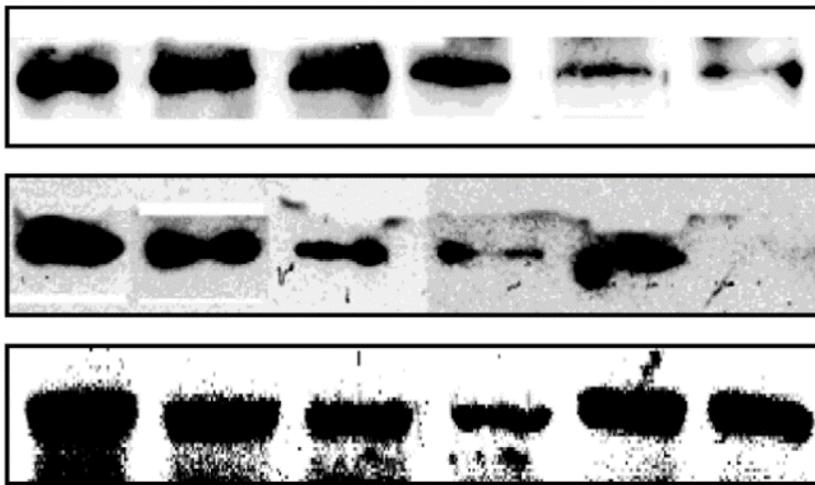
## What to do if you suspect plagiarism

### (a) Suspected plagiarism in a submitted manuscript

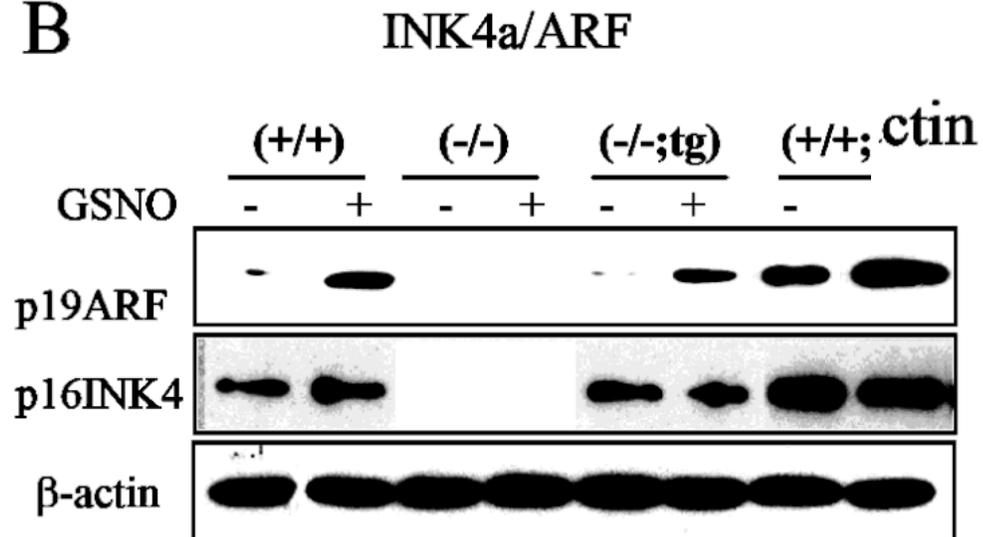


**Note**  
The instructions to authors should include a definition of plagiarism and state the journal's policy on it

# Dealing with image manipulation

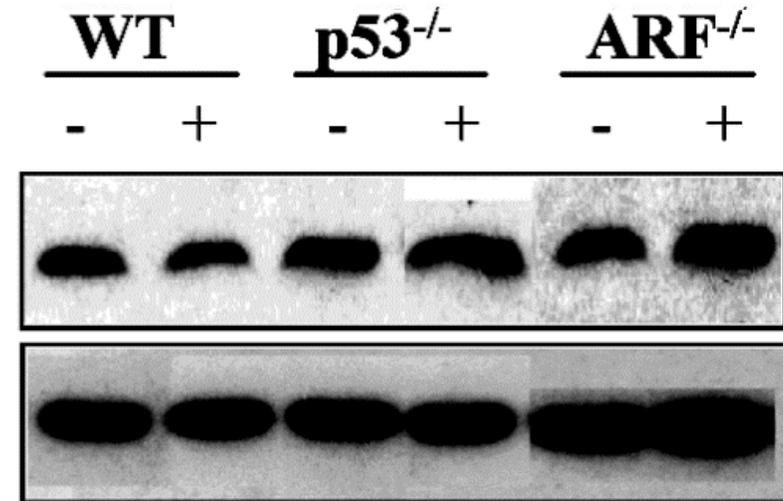


**B**



**GSNO**

**INK4**



Responsible journals check their images before publication

Thanks to  
Mike Rossner  
and David  
Vaux

# Integrity of the publication

Cell, Vol. 116, 527–540, February 20, 2004, Copyright ©2004 by Cell Press

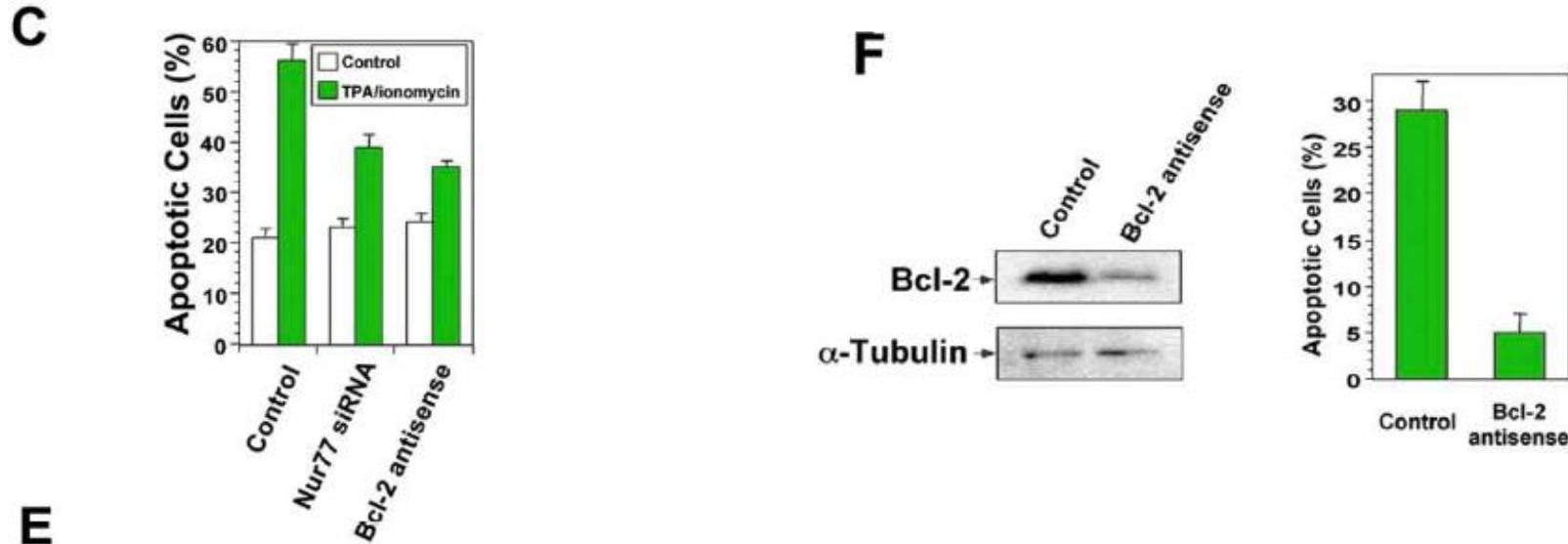


Figure 6. Nur77 Mitochondrial Targeting in Human PBLs and Apoptotic Effects of Nur77 and Bcl-2 Mutants

(A) Mitochondrial targeting of Nur77 in PBLs. GFP-Nur77 (1  $\mu$ g) and pDsRed2-Mito (1  $\mu$ g) were transfected into freshly isolated human PBLs. The cells were then treated with TPA (10 ng/ml) and ionomycin (0.5  $\mu$ M) for 30 min after 10 hr of transfection. GFP-Nur77 and mitochondria (pDsRed2-Mito) were visualized using confocal microscopy. Approximately 20% of the cells showed the pattern presented.

(B) Endogenous Nur77 accumulates in the PBL HM fraction. PBLs were treated with TPA and ionomycin as in (A) for the indicated times and HM fractions were isolated. Total cell lysates and HM fractions were subjected to immunoblotting as described in Figure 4B.

(C) Nur77 and Bcl-2 are required for apoptosis in PBLs. PBLs were transfected with control GFP siRNA, Nur77 siRNA, or Bcl-2 antisense oligonucleotides (2  $\mu$ g). After 40 hr, cells were treated with TPA and ionomycin for 7 hr and apoptotic cells (Annexin-V positive) were determined by flow cytometry. Bars represent average  $\pm$  means from two experiments.

(F) Bcl-2 is required for Nur77/ $\Delta$ DBD-induced apoptosis. GFP-Nur77/ $\Delta$ DBD (1  $\mu$ g) was cotransfected into PBLs with control oligonucleotides or Bcl-2 antisense oligonucleotides (2  $\mu$ g). After 48 hr, apoptotic cells were determined as described for (E). Bars represent average  $\pm$  means from two measurements.

Thanks to David Vaux, International Council for Science

# What is corrected/retracted and republished article?



“**Retraction with republication** (also referred to as “replacement”) can be considered in cases where honest error leads to a **major change** in the direction or significance of the **results, interpretations, and conclusions**. ...

retraction with republication of the changed paper, with an **explanation**, allows full correction of the scientific literature.

...it is helpful to **show the extent of the changes** in supplementary material or in an appendix, for complete transparency.”

# Indexing changes to a an article



## Fact Sheet: Errata, Retractions, and Other Linked Citations in PubMed

**Errata** – “... errors that originate in the publication process and those that result from errors of scientific logic or methodology ...”

**Expression of Concern** – “... about the integrity of a published article ... typically written by an editor using that phrase in the item title ...”

**Author Responses to Comments** – “... a published letter that NLM considers a comment will be immediately followed by a response written by the author(s) of the original article ...”

**Duplicate Publications** – „When NLM identifies an article that duplicates another article without acknowledgement, the citations for both articles are assigned the Publication Type of Duplicate Publication [PT].”

**Updated Articles** – „... article that updates a previous article must ... state that it is an updated version ... or must appear in a journal that routinely publishes such updates as its primary content.”

**Patients Summaries** – „The summaries are intended for patients or the lay public to explain in non-technical terms the scientific or medical findings reported in the full article.”

**Republished (Reprinted) articles** – „... republish (i.e., reprint) a significant article that was recently published in another journal.”

# How is a retracted article indexed in PubMed?



**Retractions**– “NLM does not differentiate between articles that are retracted because of honest error and those that are retracted because of scientific misconduct or plagiarism.”

Retraction of Publication [PT] – retraction notice

Retracted Publication [PT] – retracted article

# JAMA – PubMed

[JAMA Intern Med. 2016 Nov 1;176\(11\):1726-1727. doi: 10.1001/jamainternmed.2016.5831](#)

## Notice of Retraction and Replacement Veterans With Ischemic Heart Disease

[Schopfer DW<sup>1</sup>](#), [Takemoto S<sup>2</sup>](#), [Allsup K<sup>2</sup>](#)

[+ Author information](#)

### Retraction of

Cardiac rehabilitation use among veterans with ischemic heart disease

PMID: 27723859 DOI: [10.1001/jamainternmed.2014.3441](#)



### Publication type

Retraction of Publication

[Retraction of Publication](#)

## ! RETRACTED ARTICLE

See: [Retraction Notice](#)

[JAMA Intern Med. 2014 Oct;174\(10\):1687-9. doi: 10.1001/jamainternmed.2014.3441.](#)

## Cardiac rehabilitation use among veterans with ischemic heart disease.

[Schopfer DW<sup>1</sup>](#), [Takemoto S<sup>1</sup>](#), [Allsup K<sup>2</sup>](#), [Helfrich CD<sup>3</sup>](#), [Ho PM<sup>4</sup>](#), [Forman DE<sup>5</sup>](#), [Whooley MA<sup>6</sup>](#).

[+ Author information](#)

### Retraction in

Notice of Retraction and Replacement. Schopfer DW, et al. Cardiac Rehabilitation Use Among Veterans With Ischemic Heart Disease. JAMA Intern Med. 2014;174(10):1687-1689. [JAMA Intern Med. 2016]

PMID: 25133868 DOI: [10.1001/jamainternmed.2014.3441](#)

[Indexed for MEDLINE]



### Publication types, MeSH terms

#### Publication types

[Research Support, U.S. Gov't, Non-P.H.S.](#)

[Retracted Publication](#)

# JAMA – journal's page

This article has been retracted and replaced | [View Notice](#)

**This Issue**

Views **1,960** | Citations **3** | Altmetric **18**



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**Research Letter**

FREE

October 2014

## Cardiac Rehabilitation Use Among Veterans With Ischemic Heart Disease

David W. Schopfer, MD, MAS<sup>1</sup>; Steven Takemoto, PhD<sup>1</sup>; Kelly Allsup, BS<sup>2</sup>; [et al](#)

# JAMA – journal's page

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Research Letter

October 2014

**Cardiac Rehab  
Ischemic Heart**

David W. Schopfer, MD, MAS<sup>1</sup>; Ste

A Notice of Retraction and Replacement has been published | [View Article](#)

This Issue

[Views 1,294](#) | [Citations 0](#) | [Altmetric 17](#)

Comment & Response

November 2016

**Notice of Retraction and Replacement. Schopfer  
DW, et al. Cardiac Rehabilitation Use Among  
Veterans With Ischemic Heart Disease. *JAMA Intern  
Med.* 2014;174(10):1687-1689**

David W. Schopfer, MD, MAS<sup>1,2</sup>; Steven Takemoto, PhD<sup>3</sup>; Kelly Allsup, BS<sup>4</sup>; et al

FREE

# Challenges for retracted and republished articles

- Journals are not consistent in presenting article changes
- Linking services do not deliver clear updates
- Indexing databases have discrepancies in differentiating and tagging these articles.

Marasović T, Utrobičić A, Marušić A. Transparency of retracting and replacing articles. *Lancet*. 2018 (doi: 10.1016/S0140-6736(18)30487-2).

# Challenges for preprints

Preprint (NLM definition):

„Preprints are complete and public drafts of scientific documents, not yet certified by peer review. These documents ensure that the findings of the research community are widely disseminated, priorities of discoveries are established and they invite feedback and discussion to help improve the work.”

The screenshot shows a PubMed search interface. At the top left is the PubMed.gov logo. A search bar contains the text 'preprint[Publication Type]'. Below the search bar are links for 'Advanced', 'Create alert', and 'Create RSS'. A navigation bar includes 'Save', 'Email', and 'Send to' buttons, along with a 'Sorted by: Best match' dropdown menu. The main content area displays '2,587 results'. On the left, there is a 'MY NCBI FILTERS' section and a 'RESULTS BY YEAR' bar chart. The bar chart shows two bars: a taller one for 2020 and a shorter one for 2021. Below the chart is a 'TEXT AVAILABILITY' section. The search results list two items:

- 1  [Impact of comorbidities on COVID-19 outcome.](#)  
Khedr EM, Daef E, Mohamed-Hussein A, Mostafa EF, Zein M, Hassany SM, Galal H, Hassan SA, Zarzour AA, Hetta HF, Hassan HM, Amin MT, Hashem MK.  
medRxiv. 2020 Nov 30:2020.11.28.20240267. doi: 10.1101/2020.11.28.20240267. Preprint.  
PMID: 34013292 [Free PMC article.](#)
- 2  [Recombination patterns in coronaviruses.](#)  
Müller NF, Kistler KE, Bedford T.  
bioRxiv. 2021 Apr 28:2021.04.28.441806. doi: 10.1101/2021.04.28.441806. Preprint.  
PMID: 33948594 [Free PMC article.](#)

# Challenges for preprints



This article is a preprint

Preprints have not been peer reviewed.

Learn more about preprints in the [NIH Preprint Pilot](#).

> [bioRxiv](#). 2020 Jul 10;2020.07.10.197079. doi: 10.1101/2020.07.10.197079. Preprint

## Comprehensive in-vivo secondary structure of the SARS-CoV-2 genome reveals novel regulatory motifs and mechanisms

Nicholas C Huston <sup>1</sup>, Han Wan <sup>2</sup>, Rafael de Cesaris Araujo Tavares <sup>3</sup>, Craig Wilen <sup>4 5</sup>,  
Anna Marie Pyle <sup>2 3 6</sup>

Affiliations + expand

PMID: 32676598 PMID: [PMC7359520](#) DOI: [10.1101/2020.07.10.197079](#)

[Free PMC article](#)

### Update in

[Comprehensive in vivo secondary structure of the SARS-CoV-2 genome reveals novel regulatory motifs and mechanisms.](#)

Huston NC, Wan H, Strine MS, de Cesaris Araujo Tavares R, Wilen CB, Pyle AM.

Mol Cell. 2021 Feb 4;81(3):584-598.e5. doi: [10.1016/j.molcel.2020.12.041](#). Epub 2021 Jan 1.

PMID: 33444546 [Free PMC article.](#)

# Challenges for preprints

> [Mol Cell](#). 2021 Feb 4;81(3):584-598.e5. doi: 10.1016/j.molcel.2020.12.041. Epub 2021 Jan 1.

## Comprehensive in vivo secondary structure of the SARS-CoV-2 genome reveals novel regulatory motifs and mechanisms

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Craig B Wilen<sup>3</sup>, Anna Marie Pyle<sup>5</sup>

Affiliations + expand

PMID: 33444546 PMCID: [PMC7775661](#) DOI: [10.1016/j.molcel.2020.12.041](#)

[Free PMC article](#)

### Abstract

Severe-acute-respiratory-syndrome-related coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) is a novel coronavirus that causes coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). The genome of SARS-CoV-2 contains several non-coding viral RNAs in its vast potential to form RNA structures, yet as much

### Update of

[Comprehensive in-vivo secondary structure of the SARS-CoV-2 genome reveals novel regulatory motifs and mechanisms.](#)

Huston NC, Wan H, de Cesaris Araujo Tavares R, Wilen C, Pyle AM.

bioRxiv. 2020 Jul 10:2020.07.10.197079. doi: [10.1101/2020.07.10.197079](#). Preprint.

PMID: 32676598 [Free PMC article.](#) **Updated.**

# Last but not least: Predatory journals

## Definition (WIKI):

- Predatory open access publishing is an exploitative open-access publishing business model that involves charging publication fees to authors without providing the editorial and publishing services associated with legitimate journals (open access or not).

## Pseudo-journals

# Predatory journals

- Intention to deceive
- Misuse of Gold OA
- Conflict of interest (more paper – more income)
- Manipulative spamming
- Targeting young researchers and those from smaller academic communities
- Mimicking legitimate publishers
- Fake metrics



**CALL FOR PAPERS**  
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**January 27, 2014**  
Notification of Acceptance  
**January 29, 2014**  
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**January 31, 2014**

The "International Journal of Science and Advanced Technology (IJSAT)" is an open access peer-reviewed

# Predatory journals

Highjacking legitimate journals



Predatory journal

Legitimate journal →

Hijacked journals	
Year	Number of hijacked journals
2015	30
2016	101

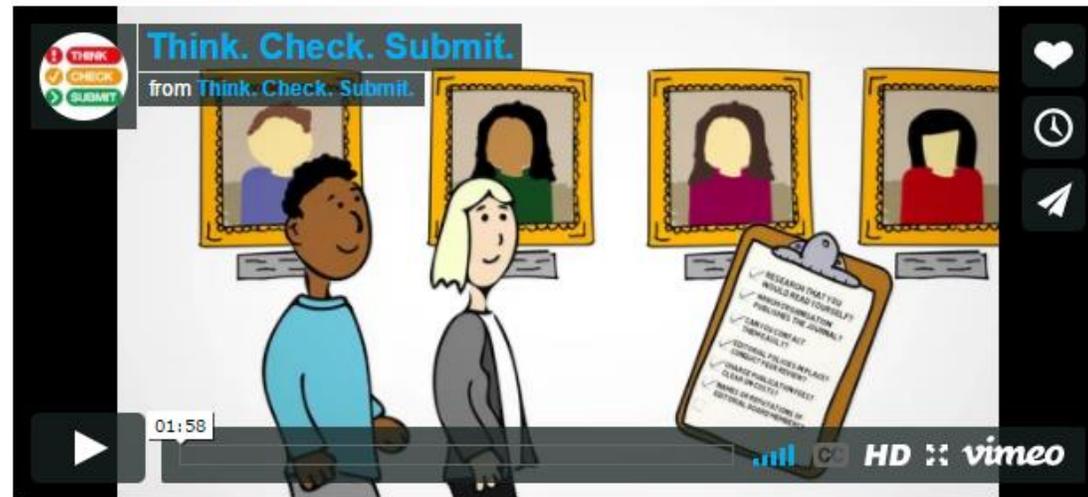


# Predatory journals



Choose the right journal for your research

<http://thinkchecksubmit.org/>



Get in here:

Full

Emi

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.

# Instead of a conclusion: Quality assurance in editing

Guidelines  
Standards  
Editorial policies

Structure

Process

Outcome

End result of care:  
Are we getting better in  
responsible publishing?

Declaring contributions and  
conflicts  
Verifying integrity of articles  
Handling allegations  
Correcting literature

A. Donabedian. Quality assurance. Structure, process,  
outcome. Nurs Stand. 1992;7(11 Suppl QA):4-51.