



How do Predatory Medical Journals Try to Seduce and Fool Potential Authors? Analysis of an 18-Months Monitoring Survey

Olaf R van Loon,¹ AJ (Tom) van Loon²

Abstract

Background/Aim: Predatory medical publishers have developed – and still continue to develop – ‘tricks’ that are intended to fool potential authors with the objective to attract manuscripts. They do so because authors have to pay them article processing charges and these are commonly their exclusive business model. Authors become ever more reluctant to publish in predatory journals because such journals are not considered as scientifically reliable and the articles in such journals are commonly not or hardly read (and even more rarely cited). Particularly young scientists can nevertheless be relatively easily seduced by the promises of predatory journals, which tend to approach potential authors in an aggressive way. This study aimed to analyse how often aggressive advertising is synonym for predatory.

Methods: The 322 medical journals and their 105 publishers that approached us from 1 January 2023 to 1 July 2024 period with the request to contribute a manuscript were analysed. The analysis dealt with several aspects that may give insight into the trustworthiness of these journals and their publishers, viz the International Standard Serial Number (ISSN), the Editor-in-Chief, the publishing history, the publisher’s location and the journal title.

Results: Only 85 (26.3 %) of the journals under study had an Editor-in-Chief and 47 (14.6 %) of the journals had no ISSN. The great majority of the journals started after 2010; the journal titles seem aimed at raising confusion with established journals and many publishers were not housed where they pretend to be.

Conclusions: Checking the above aspects of journals is an important tool helping recognise the predatory character of a journal.

Key words: Predatory publishers; Medical journals; Scientific-information transfer; Misinformation; Science ethics.

1. Privat Klinik im Park, Therapy Department, Schinznach-Bad, Switzerland.
2. College of Earth Science and Engineering, Shandong University of Science and Technology, Qingdao, Shandong, China.

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Corresponding author:

AJ (Tom) van LOON
E: Geocom.VanLoon@gmail.com
T: +31 642531779

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Introduction

It is commonly recognised nowadays that it is in particular the publish-or-perish culture,¹ introduced by managers at almost all universities and many other science-related institutes, that has triggered in the recent past a tsunami of new journals that have only one objective: earning

money. Although earning money is not a reprehensible purpose in itself, predatory journals have become a problem because scientific quality and reliability are, as a rule, not considered of any importance by these journals.^{2, 3} Although most predatory publishers claim that manuscripts

submitted to their journals undergo critical peer review, such reviews tend not to take place or they do not lead to serious revision of the submitted manuscript. A consequence is that the scientific community is overflowed with articles of low quality, often hardly reliable and occasionally even fraudulent.

Since these practices have become more widely recognised in the scientific community, ever more scientists become – fortunately – reluctant to publish in such journals, but they are confronted with a fundamental problem: it is not easily possible to decide whether a publisher or a journal is predatory. Publishers of predatory journals, in turn, have recognised the increasing criticism of scientists with respect to predatory journals and therefore develop tricky methods to hide the predatory character of their journals. This makes it ever more difficult for potential authors to recognise the predatory character of a journal. It seems therefore appropriate to pay attention to the most common tricks used by predatory publishers. Obviously, the question of how to become involved in predatory journals has been asked for a long time. A final solution might be if a recognised organisation could make a continuously updated site accessible for the entire scientific community with a list of predatory publishers and journals.

A first step

A first step taken in this direction was made by Jeffrey Beall, who was the first to notice the threat of predatory publications.⁴⁻⁶ His profession as a university librarian convinced him that he should warn the scientific community and eventually he published in a blog a list with numerous names of – what he presumed to be – predatory publishers and journals, including journals without a distinct publisher. After his list had suddenly been removed from the internet in 2017, probably because of the threat of legal suing, several comments were published mentioning that the list was really important for the scientific community.^{7,8} Although some criticism on Beall's list certainly is possible,⁹ it is commonly considered fortunate that the list can be found again on the internet, being occasionally updated by an, unfortunately, not defined group of scientists. A significant disadvantage of this list is, by definition, that it is always outdated: the last update dates from 2021.

Fairly recently, but without much attention, a comparable new step was taken (probably Beall-based but extended and updated) by *Predatory Reports*.¹⁰ The organisation was run, unfortunat-

ly but understandably, by a group of anonymous scientists who stated in this context: “*We decided to remain anonymous so as not to be sued by companies whose practices are quite aggressive.*” They took care of regular updates of both their list of predatory publishers and their list of predatory journals. Although the ongoing publishing of new predatory journals made up-to-date revisions of the lists impossible, these lists were probably the best available. Unfortunately, the site of *Predatory Reports* was suddenly removed in 2024, without any notice. This suggests that the scientists behind these lists have, like Beall, been threatened to be sued.

Recent recognised databases

The initiative by Beall has, fortunately, also led to comparable steps by widely recognised organisations that may easily face the threat of being sued. These organisations have prepared databases in which journals can be checked for their predatory nature. The most important of these organisations are the *Web of Science*, *Scopus* and *Medline*. However trustworthy these three organisations may be, they fail, unfortunately, in providing a definite answer; this is not only shown clearly by the numerous discrepancies between their judgements, but also by their own frequent revisions.

As an example, on 23 March 2023, the *Web of Science* delisted 82 journals, including some of recognised publishers such as *Taylor and Francis*, the *BMJ Publishing Group*, *Sage Publications*, *Springer* and *Wiley*.¹¹ The de-listing of journals from high-reputation publishers is worrying, because it shows that even these recognised publishers gradually seem to take over predatory characteristics; it seems unlikely that the *Web of Science* has not thought over the de-listing of journals from these publishers very thoroughly.

Also, *Scopus* is known to have been infiltrated by numerous predatory journals and several hundreds of thousands (!) articles have been traced in *Scopus* that were considered by *Geoffrey Beall* to be predatory.¹² This was recently updated in another study.¹³ Like the *Web of Science*, *Scopus* delists journals continuously. The *Scopus Journals De-Listing 2009-2023* contains far over 800 journal titles.¹⁴ *Medline* is, like *PubMed* and *PubMed Central*, funded by the (US) National Library of Medicine. As shown already in 2018, all these NLM-funded databases have been infiltrated by predatory journals.¹⁵

These findings are supported by numerous other studies. The reasons are that publishers (with

their journals) may be taken over by other journals, that recognised journals can be taken over by predatory publishers (and the reverse occurs also), that changes in the ownership or editorship of journals can change the scientific attitude fundamentally and – last but not least – that it takes years to evaluate the predatory or scholarly nature of a new journal accurately. Consequently, the inclusion of a journal in the databases of *Web of Science*, *Scopus* or *Medline* is not a reliable criterion.

On the basis of the above considerations, in combination with our analysis of the journals that invited us to submit a manuscript or to become an editor, we have come to the conclusion that each scientist should check the journal himself. Some clues, based on authors' own experience are provided here. Before doing so, we want to state explicitly that the data presented here are based on our own experience, that we use examples collected by us from journals' and publishers' websites and that our interpretations have been made to the best of our expertise. This does, obviously, not imply that no newer data became available in the meantime; nor does it imply that the data presented here might not be interpreted in another way.

Methods

Analysis of the inviting journals and publishers

Several severe errors in a recent medical publication¹⁶ caused us to write some critical comments. This comment apparently made us visible for predatory publishers, resulting in a sudden flow of requests from predatory medical journals to contribute. This flow of incoming emails turned into a tsunami after we had published some more contributions (on editorial/publishing aspects of scientific-information transfer) in the same medical journal. We deleted such requests initially, but when the flow did not stop, we started monitoring them from the beginning of 2023 till halfway 2024 (18 months). Numerous medicine-oriented journals approached us (commonly repeatedly) and we have now analysed the most relevant characteristics of these 322 journals and 105 publishers (Table 1). We publish this Table here in order to help fellow-researchers recognise more easily predatory characteristics, but we will re-

strict ourselves to the most interesting conclusions that can be drawn from this table.

Readers can analyse the details themselves and draw additional conclusions. We will not go into such details, considering the possible legal consequences, taking into account the experience of the librarian Geoffrey Beall who became confronted with threats of legal actions and who finally lost his job after he had published a blog with a list about potential predatory journals and publishers, which still represents – though removed from the internet by Beall but handled and infrequently updated now by some anonymous scientists¹⁷ – as a commonly used tool to find out easily whether a publisher or journal is predatory.

It was checked whether the journals that had approached us were included in one or more predatory lists, what was the year in which the journal was launched, whether the journal had an Editor-in-Chief, whether it had an ISSN, where the publisher was located and whether the name of the journal may raise confusion.

Obviously, several other 'criteria' might also give an impression about the predatory or scholarly character of a journal, such as the ratio of accepted/rejected manuscripts, the average time between submission and publication (and between acceptance and publication). The problem with these 'criteria' is that they can be obtained only from the journal (or publisher). Predatory journals are not inclined to make such data public, and if they do, these data tend to be incorrect.^{3,18} The only clear criterion proving without any doubt a predatory nature is the announcement by numerous journals that they will publish a manuscript within a week (or even 3 days; see, for instance *Resaim Publishing*),¹⁹ though always after the author has paid the article processing charges. Considering the above, we will restrict ourselves here to the above-mentioned six 'criteria'.

Results

The results of the analysis of the journals that had approached us - are these journals included in predatory list, year in which a journal was launched, presence of an Editor-in-Chief, presence of an ISSN, address of the publisher and name of the journals are presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Some characteristics of the publishers and their medical journals that invited the present authors from 1 January 2023 to 30 June 2024 to contribute to the indicated journal

Publisher ¹	City/town and country ²	Journal title	ISSN ³	Volume 1 ⁴	Editor in Chief* or 'first editor'
Academia Publishing*	Leeds LS1 2HQ 35 094 UK	Academia Journal of Medicinal Plants	2315-7720	2013 (volumes 1-3 are lacking on the journal website)	Juei-Tang Cheng* (Japan)
		Journal of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology	None	2014 (no archive; no later volumes)	No editors indicated
		Medicine and Medical Sciences	2682-5759	2013	Srikar R Adhikar* (USA)
ACAD-WISE	Vanastilipuram Hyderabad 500070 India	Asian Journal of Complementary and Alternative Medicine	2347-3894	2013	Naif Alenzi (Saudi Arabia)
		Journal of Clinical Medicine: Current Research	2832-7551	2021	Cristian Ramos-Vera (Peru)
		Journal of Immunology Research and Infectious Diseases	2771-4691	2021	Bogdan-Ioan Coculescu (Romania)
		Journal of Pediatric Research and Neonatal Care	2996-5071	2022	Mario Ciampolini (Italy)
		Neurodegenerative Diseases: Current Research	2832-9422	2021	Lu Lu (USA)
AD Publications*	MP Colony Bikaner India	International Journal of Environmental and Agriculture Research	2454-1850	2015	Bhagawan Bharali* (India)
Acquaint Publications	Newark, DE 19713 USA	Journal of Community Medicine and Public Health Reports	2692-9899	2020	Abhijit Mitra (India)
		Journal of Medical Case Reports and Case Series	2692-9880	2020	Abhijit Mitra (India)
Acquire Publications	Newark, DE 19713 USA	Journal of Case Reports and Medical History	2831-7410	2021	A.C. Matin (USA)
Allied Academies*	London WC1A 2SE UK	Journal of Child and Adolescent Health	None	2017	Chung-Yi Chen (Tawan)
Annex Publishers*	Manassas, VA 20110 USA	Journal of Case Reports and Studies	2348-9820	2013	Richard J. Cure* (England)
		Journal of Genetic and Hereditary Research	None	None	Nikhil A. Sangle (Canada)
		Journal of Genetic Mutation Disorders	None	2022	Mahmudul H. Khan (Bangladesh)
		Journal of Medicine and Biological Studies	None	2018 (nothing later)	Change Tan (USA)
		Journal of Palliative Medical Care & Research	None	2012 (5 articles); no 2022-2023 volumes	Alfio Ferlito (Italy)
		Journal of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation Studies	2767-4584	2021 (no volumes in 2022-2023)	Abdoulaye Diallo (USA)
		Journal of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry	2348-9790	2013	Sherman W. Jack* (USA)
ARC Publications*	Ongole, AP 523001 India	ARC Journal of Cancer Science	2455-6009	2015	Ming Wei (Australia)

Asia Pacific Academy of Science	Singapore 534818	Environment and Social Psychology	(p) 2424-7979 (o) 2424-8975	2016	Paola Magnano* (Italy)
Auctores*	Lewes DE 19958 USA	Clinical Research and Clinical Trials	2693-4779	2019	Igor Grachev* (USA)
		Clinical Research Notes	2834-5142	2020	Adel Ekladius* (Australia)
		General Medicine and Clinical Practice	2639-4162	2018	Dan Jiang* (UK)
		International Journal of Clinical Case Reports and Reviews	2690-4861	2019 (2 articles)	Martin Steinhoff* (USA)
		Journal of Surgical Case Reports and Images	2690-1897	2018	John W. Harmon* (USA)
Austin Publishing Group*	Irving TX 75039 USA	Annals of Depression and Anxiety	2381-8883	2014	Thomas Frodl (Germany)
		Annals of Yoga and Physical Therapy	2573-8585	2016	Linda May (USA)
		Austin Critical Care Journal	2379-8017	2014	Ali El Soth (USA)
		Austin Internal Medicine	2690-313X	2016	Frederick N Lobati (USA)
		Austin Journal of Musculoskeletal Disorders	2381-8948	2014	Shuanhu Zhou (USA)
		Austin Journal of Orthopedics and Rheumatology	2472-369X	2014	Rajiv Rajani (USA)
		Austin Journal of Public Health and Epidemiology	2381-9014	2014	Shuji Ogino (USA)
		Austin Medical Sciences	2689-8454	2016	Ankur Sethi (USA)
		Austin Sports Medicine	2690-1765	2016	Ashgar Abbasi (USA)
		Journal of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation International	2471-0377	2014	Duncan Reid (USA)
Journal of Psychiatry & Mental Disorders	2768-590X	2016	Constanza Colombi (USA)		
Avestia Publishing*	Orléans ON K1C 1G1 Canada	Journal of Biomedical Engineering & Biosciences	2564-4998	2014	Anthony mcgoron* (USA)
Bentham Open*	Sharja UAE	The Open Public Health Journal	1874-9445	2008	Matthias Beck (Ireland)
Austin Publishing Group*	Sharja UAE	Ani-Infective Agents	(p) 2211-3525 (o) 2211-3533	2003? (vol. 1-9 lacking on website)	Giovanni Gherardi* (Italy)
		Current Alzheimer Research	(p) 1567-2050 (e) 1875-5828	2004	Juan M. Górriz Sáez* (Spain)
		Current Drug Delivery	(p) 1567-2018 (o) 1875-5704	2004	Deng-Guang Yu (China)
		Current Drug Therapy	(p) 1574-8855 (e) 2212-3903	2006	Stefano Palomba* (Italy)
		Current Enzyme Inhibition	(p) 1573-4080 (o) 1875-6662	2005	Claudiu T. Supuran* (Italy)
		Current Traditional Medicine	(p) 2215-0838 (o) 2215-0846	2015	Duan-Fang Liao* (China)
		New Emirates Medical Journal	0250-6882	2020	Abdullah Shehab* (UAE)
		Reviews on Recent Clinical Trials	(p) 1574-8871 (o) 1876-1038	2006	Ludovico Abensvoli* (Italy)

Biomedgrid*	Orange CA 92868 USA	American Journal of Biomedical Science and Research	2642-1747	2019 (2023: vol. 20)	Ian J. Martins*(Australia)
Biomedical Research Network LLC*	Westchester IL 60154 USA	Biomedical Journal of Scientific & Technical Research	2574-1241	2017 (2023: vol. 53)	Rubén Rodríguez Elizalde (Spain)
Blue Pen Journals*	Southport Merseyside PR9 0EZ UK	International Journal of Modern and Alternative Medicine Research	2053-1834	2013	Kofi E. Aidoo (Scotland)
		Journal of Medicinal Plant and Herbal Therapy Research	2053-1826	2013	Akah Peter Achunike (Nigeria)
CEOS Publishers	Sheridan WY 82810 USA	CEOS Obstetrics and Gynecology	None	None	Zhu Lixia (China)
		CEOS Sports Medicine and Research	None	None	Wei-Chih Lien (Taiwan)
Clinisearch Publications	Austin TX 78702 USA	Clinical Research and Clinical Reports	2835-8325	2022	Gang Zhang* (USA)
Clinmed International Library*	Wilmington DE 19810 USA	Clinical Medical Reviews and Case Reports	2378-3656	2014	Wei Wang (Australia)
CMJ Publishers	New Kingston DE 12459 USA	American Journal of Clinical and Medical Research	2835-9496	2022	Mohammed Elfamarawi (USA)
Crimson Publishers*	New York NY 10022 USA	Advances in Complementary & Alternative Medicine	2637-7802	2017	Maria Kuman (Bulgaria)
		COJ Nursing & Healthcare	2577-2007	2017	James Stoxen (USA)
		Examines in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation	2637-7934	2017-2018	Emmanuel Andres (France)
		Journal of Biotechnology and Bioresearch	2643-704X	2018	Peter Blas (UK)
Directive Publications	Chesterton IN 46304 USA	Journal of Clinical Obstetrics and Gynecology Research	2766-2756	2019 (3 articles)	Takuma Hayashi, (Japan)
		The Journal of Clinical Medicine	2995-6315	2023	Weifen Li, (China)
Direct Research Journals Publisher*	No postal or visiting address provided	Direct Research Journal of Health and Pharmacology	3449-0814	2013	Amgad Rabie, (Egypt)
		Direct Research Journal of Public Health and Environmentl Technology	2734-2182	2016	Godfried Owusu-Bosteng (Ghana)
		Direct research Journal of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science	2734-2166	2016 (4 articles)	Abdulrahman Bello (Nigeria)
Elsevier	Amsterdam 1043 NX Netherlands	Advances in Medical Sciences	1896-1126	1956? (vol. 1-54 are lacking on jour- nal website)	Jacek Niklinski* (Poland)
		Archives of Medical Research	0188-4409	1971? (vol. 1-35 are lacking on jour- nal website)	Mardia López-Alarcón* (Mexico)
		Journal of Cardiology	0914-5087	1983? (vol. 1-50 are lacking on jour- nal website)	Tohru Minamino (Japan)
		The American Journal of Medicine	(p) 0002-9343 (o) 1555-7162	1946	Joseph Alpert* (USA)

EMRES Publishers	London EC1N 3AX UK	Ehealth Sciences	None	None	No editors mentioned; request to apply
Escires Publications*	Mississauga ON L5L 1H8 Canada	Frontiers in Medicine and Health Research	2817-2108	2017	Roy R. Marzo* (Malaysia)
European- American Journals (EAJ)*	London EC1V 2NX UK	International Journal of Cancer, Clinical Inventions and Experi- mental Oncology	(p) 2059-1160 (o) 2059-1179	2015	Maxwell Johnson (Canada)*
		International Journal of Nurs- ing, Midwife and Health Related Cases	(p) 2397-0758 (o) 2397-0766	2015	Paul Simon* (not traceable)
Fortune Journals	Houston TX 77082 USA	Anesthesia and Critical Care	2687-7996	2019	Ian J. Martins (Australia)
		Archives of Clinical and Medical Research	2572-5017	2017	Fernando A Boreau (Spain)
		Journal of Biotechnology and Biomedicine	2642-9128	2018 (3 articles)	L.M. Birsa (Romania)
		Journal of Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine	2688-5115	2019	Hamid Ferdosi (USA)
		Journal of Pharmacy and Pharmacology Research	2578-1553	2017	Marco Milanese (Italy)
		Journal of Women's Health and Development	2644-2884	2018	Chung-Yi Chen (Taiwan)
Frontiers*	1005 Lausanne Switzerland	Archives of Clinical and Medical Case Reports	2575-9655	2017	Yasuo Iwasaki (Japan)
		Frontiers in Pain Research	(p) 1264-241X (o) 2673-561X	No volumes; first article: 2020	Tony L. Yaksh* (USA)
		Frontiers in Rehabilitation Sciences	2673-6861	No volumes; first article: 2021	Gerold Stucki* (Switzerland)
		Frontiers in Surgery	2296-875X	No volumes; first article: 2021	Dennis P. Orgill* (USA)
Gavin Publishers*	Keillor Downs Vic 3038 Australia	Advances in Preventive Medicine and Health Care	2688-996X	2018 (4 articles)	Jerome A. Ecker (USA)
		Annals of Case Reports	2574-7754	2016	Benjamin R. Doolittle (USA)
		Current Trends in Internal Medicine	2638-003X	2017	Sorush Namian,(England)
		Current Research in Comple- mentary & Alternative Medicine	2577-2201	2017	Laura J.Kruskall (USA)
		International Journal of Nursing and Health Care Research	2688-9501	2018	Catherine Olubummo (USA)
		Journal of Community Medicine & Public Health	2577-2228	2017	Richard Garland (USA)
		Journal of Orthopedic Research and Therapy	2575-8241	2016	Jenevieve Roper (USA)
Reports on Global Health Research	2690-9480	2018	Miku Sodhi (USA)		
Gexin Online Publications*	Bhubaneswar Odisha 752101 India	Journal of CAM Research Progress	None	2022	Yuan Shiun Chang (Taiwan)
		Journal of Rehabilitation Practices and Research	2583-1593	2020	Chih Wei Peng (Taiwan)
Heighten Science Publications Inc. (HSPI)*	East Windsor CT 06088-9767 USA	Annals of Biomedical Science and Engineering	2833-518X	2017	Feng Fang (USA)
		Annals of Promiotics and Bioinformatics	2640-2831	2017 (3 articles)	Xin Zhang (China)

Heighten Science Publications Inc. (HSPI)*	East Windsor CT 06088-9767 USA	Annals of Biomedical Science and Engineering	2833-518X	2017	Feng Fang, (USA)
		Annals of Promiotics and Bioinformatics	2640-2831	2017 (3 articles)	Xin Zhang (China)
		Archives of Psychiatry and Mental Health	2766-2721	2017 (1 article)	Mayra Lopez-Humphreys (USA)
		Archives of Surgery and Clinical Research	2576-9537	2017	Konstantinos Zorba (USA)
		Insights on the Depression and Anxiety	2640-2882	2017	Carlo Pruneti* (Italy)
		Journal of Clinical, Medical and Experimental Images	2573-7708	2017	J.F.C. Teijeiro (Spain)
		Journal of Novel Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation	2573-6264	2017	Alberto Concu* (Italy)
		Journal of Pulmonology and Respiratory Research	2639-9954	2017	Giuseppe Murdaca* (Italy)
		Journal of Sports Medicine and Therapy	2573-1726	2016	Yaodong Gu* (China)
Herald Scholarly Open Acces*	Herndon VA 20171 USA	Current Research in Alternative, Complementary & Integrative Medicine	2470-7562	2015	Brandy Brown (USA)
		HSOA Journal of Medicine	2639-5657	2018	Athanasios Bramos (USA)
		International Journal of Case Reports and Therapeutic Studies	2689-310X	2019	Alexander Birbrair (Brazil)
		Journal of Alternative, Complementary & Integrative Medicine	2470-7562	2015	Brandy Brown (USA)
		Journal of Case Reports and Therapeutic Studies	2689-310X	2019	Alexander Birbrair (Brazil)
Hilaris*	Brussels Belgium	Journal of Clinical Immunology and Immunotherapy	2378-8844	2014	Anita Franczak (Poland)
		Journal of Clinical Studies and Medical Case Reports	2378-8801	2014	Angel A. Velard (USA)
		Journal of Clinical Case Reports	2165-7920	2011	Arnon Blum* (Israel)
Igmin Research	East Windsor, CT USA	STEM – Medical Education	2995-8067	2023	Mariangela Palladino (Italy)
International Organization of Scientific Research (IOSR)*	Gurugram Haryana 122001 India	IOSR Journal of Dental and Medical Sciences	(p) 2279-0861 (o) 2279-0853	2012	Shubham Shukla (India)
		IOSR Journal of Nursing and Health Sciences	(p) 2320-1940 (o) 2320-1959	2012	Hadeel Fadhil (Iraq)
		IOSR Journal of Pharmacy	(p) 2319-4219 (o) 2250-3013	2011	Gary Robinson (Australia)
		IOSR Journal of Pharmacy and Biological Science	(p) 2319-7676 (o) 2278-3008	2012	Rashmi Sharma (India)
		IOSR Journal of Sports and Physical Education	(p) 2347-6745 (o) 2347-6737	2014	Sayed M. T. Subroto (Iran)
Invention Journals*	India	International Journal of Pharmaceutical Science Invention	(p) 2319-670X (o) 2319-6718	2012	Hazim J. Al-Daraji (Iraq)
Iris Publishers*	San Francisco CA 94104 USA	Annals of Public Health & Epidemiology	2832-7942	2019-2022 (2019: 2 articles)	Jao C.G. Martins Macedo (Portugal)
		Archives of Rheumatology & Arthritis Research	2694-1724	2020	Khaled Hamlaoui (Algeria)
		Online Journal of Complementary & Alternative Medicine	2644-2957	2019	Jianqing Zhang* (China)
		World Journal of Yoga, Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation	2694-1767	2019	Huei-Chu Cheng (Taiwan)

	Annals of Community Medicine and Practice	2475-9465	2015	Hicham Khayat (Spain)	
	Annals of Men's Health and Wellness	2641-7707	2017 2019-2021: no volumes 2023: no volume	Jue Wang (USA)	
	Annals of Nursing and Practice / JSM Nursing and Practice	2379-9501	2014 Only vol. 5 issue 2 (2019) present on the website	Michael B. Blank (USA)	
	Annals of Public Health and Research	2378-9328	2014	Weng Kee Wong (USA)	
	Annals of Sports Medicine and Research / JSM Sports Medicine and Research	2379-0571	2014 Only vol. 3 issue 1 (2019) present on the website	Christian C. Evans (USA)	
	Archives of Paediatric and Developmental Pathology	2641-774X	2017	Hosein Heydari (Iran)	
	Journal of Addiction Medicine and Therapy	2333-665X	2013 (4 articles)	Billy T. Chen (USA)	
	Journal of Autism and Epilepsy	2641-7774	2016	Meral Huri (Turkiye)	
	Journal of Behavior	2576-0076	2014 Volumes 1, 4 and 5 lacking on the website 2018-2019: no volumes	Linda Lagasse (USA)	
JSciMed Central/ JSMCentral*	Not indicated on the journal websites; In email messages sometimes indicated as: Middletown, DE 19709 USA; ISSN portal: India	Journal of Fractures and Sprains	2578-3831	2017	Harvey Manes (USA)
	Journal of Neurological Disorders and Stroke	2334-2307	2013 Volumes 4-6 (2020-2022) 1 article per year	Allan Siegel (USA)	
	Journal of Neurology and Translational Neuroscience	2333-7087	2013 No archive on website	Joe Iewanaga* (Japan)	
	Journal of Trauma and Care	2573-1246	2015	Paul R. Sanberg (USA)	
	JSM Anxiety and Depression	2475-9139	2016	Nancy L. Beckerman (USA)	
	JSM Bioavailability and Bioequivalence	2641-7812	2017 No archive on website	Sitaram P. Velaga (Sweden)	
	JSM Foot & Ankle	2475-9112	2016	J. Monde Laborde,(USA)	
	JSM Health Education & Primary Health Care	2578-3777	2016 (no volumes for 2019-2021)	Baraket Oussama (Tunisia)	
	JSM Medical Case Reports	None	2016 (no volume for 2022: 2021: 1 article)	Amit D. Amin USA)	
	JSM Microbiology	2333-6455	2013 (volumes 2021-2024 lacking)	Yan Ping Lin (USA)	
	JSM Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation (also indicated as: SM Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation)	2578-3572	2017 Last published volume: 6 (2022: 4 articles)	Kenichi Ito (Japan)	
	JSM Thyroid Disorders and Management	None	2016 (1 article) Last volume: 2023 (1 article)	Carlos Pernambuco (Portugal)	
	SM Journal of Biomedical Engineering	2573-3702	2015 (4 articles)	No editors indicated	
	SM Journal of Case Reports	2473-0688	2019	No editors indicated	
	SM Journal of Environmental Toxicology	None	No archive	No editors indicated	

		SM Journal of Family Medicine	2576-0262	2017	No editors indicated
		SM Journal of Nursing	2573-3249	2015	Ahmad S. Salehi (Afghanistan)
		SM Journal of Public Health and Epidemiology	2473-0661	Vol. 1-2 lacking; No volumes for 2019-2022	No editors indicated
Jscholar Publishers \ Jscholar Journals*	Sunnyvale CA 94087 USA	Journal of Bioinformatics and Comparative Genomics	2694-037X	2018	Xin Li (USA)
		Journal of Food and Nutrition	2375-6829	2014	Elane M. De Lira (Brazil)
		Journal of Genetic Disorders and Therapy	None	2022	Biqing Chen (China)
		Journal of Osteology and Arthrology	None	2022	Xinyong Li (Australia)
		Journal of Women's Health and Gynecology	2379-6715	2014	Joanne Milios (Australia)
Juniper Publishers*	Irvine CA 92612 USA	Annals of reviews and Research Current Trends in Biomedical Engineering and Biosciences	2641-8320	2017-2018 (2017: 1 article)	Raul H. Morales Borges* (Puerto Rico)
		Global Journal of Addiction & Rehabilitation Medicine	2572-1151	2016	Zhengjun Liu (China)
		Global Journal of Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities	2573-2447	2017	Sam Vaknin (Russia)
		Journal of Complementary Medicine & Alternative Healthcare	2575-8586	2017	Manual Ojea Rua (Spain)
		Journal of Gynecology and Women's Health	2572-1232	2016	Yemeng Chen* (USA)
		Journal of Tumor Medicine & Prevention	2474-7602	2016	Pietro V. Foti (Italy)
		Journal of Yoga and Physiotherapy	2575-890X	2017	Shi-Yong Sun (USA)
		Open Access Journal of Toxicology	2476-1303	2016	Feilong Wu, (USA)
		Palliative Medicine and Care International Journal	2474-7599	2015	Ayman Noreddin (United Arab Emirates)
			2688-3821	2018	Giovanna L. Costa (Italy)
Lidsen Publishing*	Beachwood OH44122 USA	OBM Integrative and Complementary Medicine	2573-4393	2016 (3 articles)	Gerhard Litscher* (Austria)
Longdom Publishing*	1150 Brussels Belgium	Autism-Open Access	2165-7890	2011 (4 articles)	Dario Siniscalco (Italy)
		Emergency Medicine: Open Access	2165-7548	2011	Eiichi Suehiro (Japan)
		Internal Medicine: Open Access	2165-8048	2011	Fabio Angeli* (Italy)
Lupine Publishers*	New York NY 10019 USA	Open Access Journal of Complementary & Alternative Medicine	2644-1217	2018	Adel W. Ekladios, (Australia)
		Orthopedics and Sports Medicine Open Access Journal	2638-6003	2018	Alfio Ferlito (Italy)
Maples Scientific Publishers	Mohali Punjab 160070 India	Journal of Internal Medicine and Emergency Research	2582-7367	2018	Josef Eldor* (Israel)
McMed International*	T-Naga Chennai 600017 India	International Journal of Veterinary Science and Research	None	2015 (nothing later)	R. Srivastava* (France)
MDPI	4020 Basel Switzerland	Healthcare	2227-9032	2013	Tin-Chih T. Chen (Taiwan)

Medclinics	Cheyenne WY 82001 USA	CMJ Clinical Medicine	None	2024	A.A. Altintas* (Germany)
		CMJ Medicine	None	None	Mirza Kovacevic (Bosnia Herzegovina)
		CMJ Open Journal	None	None	Senthil S. Balasubramanian (USA)
		Global Clinical and Medical Care Reports Journal	None	None	Cao Qiang (China)
		Journal of Case Reports in Clinical Medicine	None	None	Celeste Y.-C. Wu (USA)
		Journal of Surgery and Perioperative Care	None	None	Giovanni Dapri (Italy)
Meddocs Publishers	Reno NV 89502 USA	International Journal of Innovative Surgery	2639-9229	2018	Binyun Ma (USA)
		Journal of Orthopedics and Muscular System	2640-4389	2018	Jianwei He (China)
Medires Publishing	New York NY 10013 USA	International Journal of Pulmonology and Disorders	None	2023	Pavel A. Solopov* (USA)
Mediterranean Journals	Lewes DE 19958 USA	Annals of Public Health	2831-6193	2022 (no archive)	Khalid Bouti (Morocco)
Medpress Publications	Dover DE 19901 USA	Medpress Journal of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation	None	Indicated: 2022 (no volume was ever published)	Jawal Al-Mosawi* (Iraq)
		Medpress Psychiatry and Behavioral Science	2834-7552	2016	Amir J. Al-Mosawi* (Iraq)
Medtext Publications*	Chicago IL 60659 USA	American Journal of Clinical Case Reports	2766-5844	2020	Arens Taga (USA)
		American Journal of Surgery Case Reports	2766-8304	2020	Shigeo Masuda (Japan)
		American Journal of Surgical Techniques and Case Reports	2694-4901	2020	John A. St. Cyr (Canada)
		Annals of Clinical Case Studies	2688-1241	2018	James P. Dworkin-Valenti* (USA)
		Annals of Short Reports and Clinical Images	2688-5506	2018 (archive incomplete)	Toru Ishikawa (Japan)
		Journal of Medicine and Public Health	2766-8355	2020	Rogério Oliveira Rodrigues (Brazil)
		Medlife Clinics	2689-5943	2019	Lin Lin (China)
		Neurology Current Research	2687-6981	2018-2019	Yanfei Deng (China)
MK Science Set Publishers	Buffalo NY 14226 USA	Journal of Clinical Surgery Care Research	None	2022	Brandon P. Lucke-Wold (USA)
		Journal of Psychiatry and Neurochemistry Research	None	2023	Photios Anninos (Greece)
		Science Set Journal of Medical and Clinical Case Studies	None	Indicated: 2022 (no archive)	Mahaveer Mehta (UAE)
Negah Scientific Communication	Tehran Iran	Archives of Rehabilitation	2538-6247	2022	Mohammad A.M. Bandpe* (Iran)
Ocean Visionary Publications	Newcastle DE 19709 USA	Medical and Clinical Case Reports International	None	2023 (1 article)	Varikoti Triveni (India)
OMICS International	Constanta 900720 Romania	Journal of Alzheimers Disease and Parkinsonisml	2161-0460	2011	Aleksandar Videnovic (USA)

OAT (Open Access Text / OA Text)*	London W4 5YA UK	Archives of Epidemiology and Public Health	2633-1411	2019	Bingling Wang (China)
		Biomedical Genetics and Genomics	2398-5399	2016	Hieronim Jakubowski* (USA)
		Biomedical Research and Reviews	2515-9186	2017	Jin-Wen Xu* (China)
		Clinical and Medical Investigations	2398-5763	2016	John D. Rozich* (USA)
		Clinical Case Reports and Reviews	2059-0393	2015	Andy Goren* (Italy)
		Clinical Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Medicine	2059-4828	2015	John L. Powell* (USA)
		Clinical Sciences Research and Reports	2516-709X	2018	Wataru Hatakeyama (Japan)
		Frontiers in Women's Health	2398-2799	2016	Beverly J.N. Vollernhoven (Australia)
		Global Medicine and Therapeutics	2516-7065	2016	Simon C. Robson (USA)
		Health Education and Care	2398-8517	2016	Fadi Alkhateeb (USA)
		Internal Medicine and Care	2515-1061	2017	Alessandra Vari (Italy)
		Journal of Clinical Investigation and Studies	2631-4002	2018	Tomoko Hasunuma* (Japan)
		Medical Case reports and Reviews	2517-7214	2018	Hamid Y. Husain* (UAE)
		Medical Devices and Diagnostic Engineering	2390-6854	2016 (6 articles)	Jui-Teng Lin, (USA)
		Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Research	2398-3353	2016	Martin Grabois* (USA)
Trauma and Emergency Care	2398-3345	2016	Guo-Gang Xin* (China)		
Trends in Medicine	1594-2848	2001	Ying-Fu Chen* (Taiwan)		
Opast Publishers*	Overland Park KS 66221 USA	Advances in Bioengineering and Biomedical Science Research	2640-4133	2018	Yong Lian, (China)
		Dermatology Journal of Cosmetic and Laser Therapy	2835-7329	2022	Mahaveer Mehta (India)
		International Journal of Clinical and Medical Education Research	2832-7705	2022	Gurdeep Singh (USA)
		International Journal of Alzheimer's Disease Research	None	2023	James Stoxen (USA)
		New Advances in Brain & Critical Care	2771-7887	2020	Iswariya Venkataraman (USA)
		World Journal of Clinical & Medical Images	2833-9312	2022	Raffaella Pilla (Italy)
Open Journal Systems*	Phoenix AZ 85032 USA	Journal of Medical Case Reports and Reviews	(p) 2589-8647 (e) 2589-8655	2018	Andrii Puzyrenko* (USA)
Oxford University Press	Oxford OX2 6DP UK	Journal of the National Cancer Center	(p) 2096-8603 (o) 2667-0054	2021	Jie He* (USA)
Pagepress Publications	2700 Pavia Italy	European Journal of Translational Myology	2037-7460	1990 ? (Volumes 1-19 are lacking on the website)	Ugo Carraroi (Italy)
Pakistan Home Economics Association	Lahore 54782 Pakistan	Nurture	(p) 1994-1625 (o) 1994-1633	2007	Guillaume F. Lopez-Sánchez (Spain)

Peertechz Publications*	Los Angeles CA 90024 USA	Annals of Environmental Science and Toxicology	2641-2969	2016	Miklas Scholz* (Sweden)
		Annals of Musculoskeletal Medicine	2640-8139	2012	Maria Plagkou (Greece)
		Archives of Preventive Medicine	2640-7868	2016	Pengcheng (China)
		Archives of Sports Medicine and Physiotherapy	2641-3108	2016 (2 articles)	Redha Tajar* (France)
		Journal of Addiction Medicine and Therapeutic Science	2455-3484	2015	Carl N. Edwards (USA)
		Journal of HIV for Clinical and Scientific Research	2455-3786	2020	Abu-Hussein Muhamad* (Greece)
Prime Scholars*	London UB8 1QG UK	Quality in Primary Care	1479-1064	Volumes 1-12 are lacking; Vol. 13: 2003	Hassaan Tohid (USA)
Probe Publisher	Waltham Cros EN8 UK	Journal of Clinical Trials and Case Studies	None	2023	Abu-Hussein Muhamad* (Greece)
Probiologists	Middletown DE 19709 USA	Journal of Rehabilitation Research and Practice	2694-0388	2020	Leslie A. Tive (USA)
		Archives of Clinical Toxicology	2692-8280	2019	Kartoosh Heidari (USA)
Quest Journals Inc.*	New Delhi India	Journal of Medical and Dental Science Research	(p) 2394-076X (o) 2394-0791	2014	Saparov Bobur (Uzbekistan)
		Journal of Research in Pharmaceutical Science	2347-2995	2013	Saparov Bobur (Uzbekistan)
Remedy Publications*	Indicated as: Cheyenne WY 82001 USA Actually: Hyderabad, Telangana-500081 India	American Journal of Medicine and Public Health	2771-943X	2020	Kristine M. Demarco (USA)
		Annals of Clinical Case Reports	2474-1655	2016	Yoshihiro Abiko* (Japan)
		Annals of Clinical Toxicology	2641-905X	2018	Takaki Ishikawa (Japan)
		Annals of Orthopedics and Muskuloskeletal Disorders	2638-3586	2017	Al-min Wu (China)
		Annals of Short Reports	2640-6691	2018	Andreas Scorilas (Greece)
		Clinical Case Reports International	2638-4558	2017	Kinner M. Patel (USA)
		Clinics in Surgery	2474-1647	2016	Robert J. Buchanan* (USA)
		Journal of Clinical Ophthalmology & Eye Disorders	2644-0385	2017	Zhijie Li (China)
		Journal of Plastic Surgery	2771-9456	2021	Naohiri Ishii, (Japan)
		Open Journal of Public Health	2689-9388	2019	Dazhi Fan (China)
		World Journal of Clinical and Medical Case Reports	2996-4350	2023 (5 articles)	Shansheng Zhang (China)
World Journal of Surgery and Surgical Research	2637-4625	2018	Yukihiko Tokunaga (Japan)		
Research & Reviews*	Dubai UAE	Journal of Veterinary Sciences	2581-3897	2015	Rahul M. Nandre (USA)
Sage Publications	London EC1Y 1SP0 UK	Asia Pacific Journal of Public Health	(p) 1010-5395 (o) 1941-2479	1987	Wah Yun Low* (Malaysia)
		Clinical Medicine Insights: Arthritis and musculoskeletal Disorders	1179-5441	2008	Chuanju Liu (USA)
		Health: An Interdisciplinary Journal for the Social Study of Health, Illness and Medicine	1363-4593	1997	Michael Ttraynor (UK)
		Journal of Patient Safety and Risk Management	(p) 2516-0435 (o) 2516-0443	1995	Albert W. Wu (USA)
		Scandinavian Journal of Public Health	(p) 1403-4948 (o) 1651-1905	1973	Terje A. Elkemo* (Norway)

Salient Visionary Publications	Casper WY 82609 USA	Annals of Case Reports and Clinical Studies	2834-5673	2022	Nick Bakalis (Greece)
		Annals of Clinical Oncology and Cancer Research	None	2023 (1 article)	Takaaki Musha* (Japan)
		Clinics in Medicine and Medical Research	None	2023	Emmanuel Andres* (USA)
		International Clinical and Medical Case Reports	2832-5788	2022	Adel W. Ekladios (Australia)
		International Journal of Alternative, Complementary and Integrative Medicine	None	None	Hossein Husseinkhani (USA)
Scholarena*	Warrensburg MO 64093 USA	Journal of Genetic and Hereditary Case Studies	None	None	Emmanuel I. Obeagu (Nigeria)
		Journal of Human Genetics and Genomic Medicine	2768-1521	2018-2019	Nikolsay I. Modyanov (USA)
		Journal of Palliative and Medical Care	None	2021 (1 article) No later volumes	Hossein Sarmast (Syria)
Scholars Literature	Hampshire IL 60140 USA	Journal of Womens Health Care and Management	2692-0948	2020	Alberto Falchetti (Italy)
Scibase Journals	Las Vegas NV 89107 USA	Scibase Critical Care & Emergency Medicine	None	2023	Massimo Meco (Italy)
		Scibase Oncology	2996-3826	2023	Valeria Delgado Taveres (Portugal)
Science Excel	Wilmington DE 19801 USA	Archives of Clinical Trials	2768-4598	2021	Ning Li* (China)
		Biomedical and Translational Science	2768-4911	2020-2021	Jin-Ichi Sasaki* (Japan)
		Medicine and Clinical Science	2690-5191	2019	Satoshi Kashiwagi* (USA)
		Neurology and Neuroscience	2692-7918	2020	Xue-Bin Qu* (China)
		Surgery Research Journal	2768-0428	2020-2021	John A. St. Cyr* (USA)
Science Publications*	Dubai UAE	Current Research in Medicine	(p) 2524-2199 (o) 2524-2202	2010	No editors indicated; Request to apply
Science Publishing Group*	New York, NY 10020 USA	American Journal of Clinical and Experimental Medicine	2330-8133	2013	Fiorella Colasuonno (Italy)
		American Journal of Health Research	2330-8796	2013	Samuel S. Akpan (Nigeria)
		International Journal of Biomedical Engineering and Clinical Science	(p) 2472-1298 (o) 1472-1301	2015	Swee Lu Lim (Australia)
		Clinical Medicine: Research	(p) 2326-9049 (o) 2326-9057	2012	Hongjian Pu (USA)
Science Scholar / Universidad Technica de Manabi	Portoviejo 130105 Ecuador	International Journal of Health Sciences	(p) 2550-6978 (o) 2550-696X	2017	Maria Rodríguez Gaméz*
Scieniq Publishers	Chandler AZ 85286 USA	Journal of Neurology and Neuroscience Research	None	No archive	Linnie M. Golightly (USA)
Scientific and Academic Publishing (Sapub/SAP)*	Rosemead CA 91731 USA	American Journal of Medicine and Medical Sciences	(p)2165-901X (e)2165-9036	2011	Eduardo Spinedi* (Argentina)
Scientific Archives LLC	Wilmington DE 19804 USA	Journal of Cellular Immunology	2689-2812	2019	Patrice P. Deneffe* (France)
		Journal of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation	2690-0297	2019	Wan X. Yao* (USA)

Scientific Eminence Group	New York NY 535022 / Tracy CA 95377 USA	Journal of Genetic Diseases and Therapeutics	None	2022 (1 article) (no later volumes)	“will be updated soon” (for several months)
		Journal of Physical Rehabilitation and Physiotherapy	None	2021-2022 (2021: 1 article; no later volume)	Philippe Gorce (France)
		Journal of Women Health Care and Reproductive Medicine	None	2021 (no 2023 volume)	Nicolaos Papadopoulos (Greece)
Scientific Literature*	Wilmington DE 19801 USA	Annals of Orthopaedics, Trauma and Rehabilitation	2833-2431	2017	Gavin Mills (USA)
		Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Journal	2834-3247	2017	Martin Katzman (Canada)
Scientific Research and Community (SRC)	Coventry CV5 6GF UK	Journal of Neurology Research Reviews & Reports	2754-4737	2019	Brandon P. Lucke-Wold* (USA)
		Journal of Spine Research & Reports	2755-9890	2022	Giuseppe Ianza* (Italy)
Scientize Publishers	Auburn 2144 NSW Australia	Annals of Case Reports & Reviews	2574-5747	2018	Adel W. Ekladios* (Australia)
		Annals of Surgery and Surgical Care Reports	2575-9670	2018 (3 articles)	A.K. Venyo (UK)
Scimed Press	Sheridan WY 82810 USA	SMP Sports Science and Medicine	None	None	Mark Váczi (Hungary)
SCIREA	Hong Kong	Scirea Journal of Clinical Medicine	2706-8870	2016	Grzegorz Cieslar (Poland)
Scires Literature*	Middletown DE 19709 USA	Journal of Biomedical Research & Environmental Sciences	2766-2278	2020	Mark S. Kindy (USA)
Scitech Journals*	Hyderabad 500072 India	Journal of Alternative Medicine and Therapies	None	2014	Fazlollah Ghofranipour (Iran)
Series Science International	Minneapolis MN 55402 USA	Series of Medical Science	2771-0629	2020 (2 articles)	Yasuo Iwasaki (Japan)
Society for Advance Healthcare Research	K.M. Girhepunje Maharashtra India	European Journal of Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences	2349-8870	2014	Valentina Petkova* (Bulgaria)
Stechnolock*	No address provided	Annals of Sports and Exercise Medicine	None	None	Carlo Pruneti (Italy)
Stephy Publishers	Irvine CA 92614 USA	SOJ Complementary and Emergency Medicine	2833-3357	2021	Roy G. Beran (Australia),
STM Journals	Noida Uttar Pradesh 201301 India	International Journal of Brain Sciences	None	2024	Podolsky I. Mykolayovich* (Ukraina)
Sunandan Divatia School of Science, NMIMS	Mumbai Maharashtra 400056 India	Biomedical Research Journal	2349-3674	2014	Neetin Desai* (India)

Symbiosis*	Normal IL 61761 USA	Journal of Exercise, Sports & Orthopedics	2372-0972	2014	Andre Nicolas Gay* (USA)
		Nursing and Health Care	2471-6529	2015	Danita R. Potter* (USA)
Universitas Airlangga	Surabaya 60132 Indonesia	Surabaya Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Journal	2656-0895	2019	Martha K. Kusumawardani* (Indonesia)
Universitat Sebelas Maret	Surakarta 57126 Indonesia	Epidemiology and Public Health	2549-0273	2016	Bhisma Murti (Indonesia)
URF Publishers	Hyderabad, Telangana, 502303 India	Journal of Integrated Health	2583-5386	2022	Erica Edfort* (USA)
		Medical & Clinical Case Reports Journal	2584-0355	2023	Amgad M. Rabie* (Egypt)
VIBGYOR epress*	Hemel Hempstead HP1 1AU UK	International Journal of Healthcare Systems Engineering	2633-8939	2019	Ronald T. Brown (USA)
Walsh Medical Media	London UB8 1QG UK (ISSN portal: India)	Journal of Bioequivalence & Bioavailability	0975-0851	2009	Sinerik Ayrapetyan* (Armenia)
World Science Publishing Co.*	Singapore 596422	Journal of Mechanics In Medicine and Biology	(p) 0219-5194 (o) 1793-6810	2001	Y.-K. Eddie (Singapore)
World Scientific and Engineering Academy and Societ (WSEAS)*	Athens 15773 Greece	WSEAS Transactions on Biology and Biomedicine	(p) 1109-9518 (o) 2224-2902	2004	Charles A. Long (USA)
Journals without a traceable publisher (stand-alone journals)	Santa Rosa CA 95404 USA	American Journal of Surgery and Clinical Case Reports	2689-8268	2019-2020	Deborah J. Verran* (New Zealand)
	Franklin Park NJ 08823 USA	Annals of Case Reports and Medical Images	None	No archive	No editors indicated
	Jodhpur Rajasthan 342001 India	Biomedical Research	(p) 0970-938X (e) 0976-1683	Volumes 1-13 lacking in archive	Ken-ichiro Inoue* (Japan)
	Bhopal Madhya Pradesh India	Innovative Journal of Medical and Health Sciences	(p) 2589-9341 (o) 2277-4939	2011	Daniel Vivek (India)
	Sundargarh Odisha 769003 India	International Journal Dental and Medical Sciences Research	2582-6018	2019	Sebastain Wilson* (USA) (Note: spelling following website)
	Sundargarh Odisha 769003 India	International Journal of Pharmaceutical Research and Applications*	2249-7781	2016	Manohar Deshmukh* (India)
	Hooghly, West Bengal India	Journal of Complementary and Alternative Medicine Research	2456-6276	2016	Nawal K. Dubey (India)
	Telangana, Hyderabad 508252 India	Frontiers in Medical Case Reports*	2582-8142	2020	Amandeep Goyal* (USA)
Mandsaur Mandhya Pradesh India	Journal of Medical Care Research and Review	(p) 2589-8930 (o) 2589-8949	2018	Shariful Islam* (Trinidad and Tobago)	

	Lewes DE 16192 USA	Insights of Clinical and Medical Images	2834-0825	2019	Spoorthi R. Banavar (Malaysia)
	Lewes DE 16192 USA	Insights Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology	2834-0752	2019	Muhammad Irfan, (China)
	Beverly Hills CA 90212 USA	International Journal of Clinical Studies and Medical Case Reports	2692-5877	2020	Emmanuel Andres* (France)
	Chandler, AZ 85286 USA	International Journal on Biomedical Research and Technology	None	2023	No editors indicated
	Frisco TX 75070 USA	Journal of Clinical Case Reports, Medical Images and Health Sciences	2832-1286	2022	Shesnia Salim (China)
Journals without a traceable publisher (stand-alone journals)	Frisco TX 75070 USA	Journal of Clinical Studies and Medical Images, Case Reports	2837-7567	2023	Shesnia Salim (China)
	Las Vegas NV 89107 USA	Journal on Surgery	2691-7785	2020	Narjis Youssef (Morocco)
	Las Vegas NV 89107 USA	Epidemiology and Public Health	None	2023	Casey Fiske (USA)
	Franklin Park NJ 08823 USA	Med Discoveries	2993-1142	2022	Enrico Heffler (Italy)
	Phoenix AZ 85024 USA	Journal of Clinical and Medical Images, Case Reports	2771-019X	2021	Haruto Nishida* (Japan)
	Chesterton IN 46304 USA	World Journal of Clinical Surgery	2766-6182	2019 (2 articles)	Haruto Nishida* (Japan)

1. An asterisk (*) in this column indicates that the publisher is included in Beall's list of potential predatory publishers (accessed 23 May 2023). Inclusion in these lists does not necessarily imply that these are predatory publishers. On the other hand, publishers not included in these lists might be predatory, particularly since many journals are so recent that inclusion in a list of predatory publishers was not feasible. Moreover, it should be kept in mind that numerous publishes ad journals do not indicate the actual address where they are housed (see also Table 2).
2. Not all addresses are indicated on the publisher's or journal's website. When absent, the address could occasionally be traced elsewhere. Where only a country is indicated, this information was retrieved from the ISSN portal.
3. Note that the journal's website does not always indicate an ISSN. If the journal's website does not indicate an ISSN, the existence of an ISSN was checked through the ISSN portal (last check: 15 July 2024). It appears that several publishers indicate for more than half a year that the application for an ISSN is in progress (which does actually never take that long!). If both a printed and an online version are published, both ISSN numbers - (p) and (o), respectively - are indicated.
4. Volume 1 cannot always be traced in the archive on the journal's website (occasionally because no volume 1 has been published yet).
5. An asterisk in this column indicates an Editor-in-Chief. Other names indicate the first mentioned member of the Editorial Board/Team/Panel.

Some journals and publishers mentioned in Table 1 have exactly the same address eg Lewes, DE (16192 Coastal Highway) without mentioning any

relationship. Characteristics of publishers and journals housed at mentioned address is detailed in Table 2.

Table 2: Characteristics of publishers and (pretended?) stand-alone journals housed at 16192 Coastal Highway, Lewes, DE 19958, USA (the internet searched August 2023-July 2024)

Publishers			
Publisher's name	Additional contact possibilities	Number of all journals	Titles of medical journals
Acquaint Publications	tel. +1-(302)-597-9112 info@acquaintjournals.info	9	Journal of Cancer and Cancer Screening Journal of Community Medicine and Public Health Reports Journal of Dental Research and Dental Prospects Journal of Gynaecology, Andrology and Reproductive Medicine Journal of Heart and Cardiovascular Imaging Journal of Medical Case Reports and case Series Journal of Neurosurgery and Clinical Neurology Journal of Nutrition and Diet Care Journal of Surgery and Surgical Outcomes
Aditum Publishing	tel. +1-(205)-633-4424 info@aditum.org	50	Aditum Journal of Clinical and Biomedical Research Anesthesia and Pain Management Archives Of Clinical Surgery Case Reports International Journal Clinical Cardiology Interventions Clinical Case Reports and Clinical Study Clinical Medical Case Reports and Case Series Clinical Psychology and Mental Health Care Clinical Research and Clinical Case Reports Dental Science and Innovative Research Environmental Pollution and Health Gastroenterology and Hepatology Research Immunity Inflammation and Infection Diseases International Clinical Research and Clinical Trials International Journal of Addiction Research International Journal of Clinical Cardiology and Cardiovascular International Journal of Clinical Gynaecology and Obstetrics International Journal of Clinical Otorhinolaryngology International Journal of Epidemiology and Public Health Research International Journal of Hematology Research and Reports International Journal of Intensive Care Medicine International Journal of Interventional Radiology and Imaging International Journal of Medical Case Reports and Medical Research International Journal of Public Health Nutrition and Food Processing International Journal of Toxicology Research International Pathology and Laboratory Medicine International Surgery Case Reports Journal of Biomed Research International Journal of Brain Research and Human Behavior Journal of Clinical Oncology and Cancer Research Journal of Dermatology and Venereology Journal of International Endocrinology and Diabetes Journal of Pulmonary Medicine and Respiratory Sciences Journal of Rehabilitation Research Journal of Urology and Nephrology Research Journal of Veterinary Medicine and Science Journal of Women Health Care and Analysis Neurosurgery and Neurology Research Nursing and Healthcare Research Oncology and Cancer Screening Ophthalmology and Vision Care Orthopaedic Research and Surgery Orthopaedics and Traumatology Journal Pediatrics and Child Health Issues

AJPO Journals	WhatsApp: +1-(985)-283-6478 journals@aipojournals.org Bhulabhai Desai Road, Mumbai, India	55	American Journal of Health, Medicine and Nursing Practice European Journal of Animal Health European Journal of Health Sciences
Auctores Publishing	tel. +1-(302)-520-2644 info@auctorespublishing.com	80	Addiction Research and Adolescent Behaviour Archives of Medical Case Reports and Case Study Biomedical and Clinical Research Biomedical Research and Clinical Reviews Brain and Neurological Disorders Cancer Research and Cellular Therapeutics Carcinogenesis and Chemotherapy Cardiology Research and Reports Chinese Clinical Research and Trials Clinical Abdominal Diseases and Research Clinical and Interventional Cardiology Clinical Cancer and Oncology Research Clinical Cardiology and Cardiovascular Interventions Clinical Heart Research Clinical Imaging and Interventional Radiology Clinical Medical Reviews and Reports Clinical Obesity and Bariatric surgery Clinical Oncology Research and Reports Clinical Oral Health Clinical Orthopaedics and Trauma Care Clinical Pediatrics and Mother Health Clinical Research and Clinical Trials Clinical Research Notes Clinics in Radiology Dentistry and Oral Maxillofacial Surgery Dermatology and Dermatitis Diabetes and Islet Biology Emergency Medicine and Emergency Nursing Endocrinology and Disorders Experimental and Clinical Ophthalmology Gastroenterology Pancreatology and Hepatobiliary Disorders General Medicine and Clinical Practice Immunology and Inflammation Diseases Therapy International Journal of Cardiovascular Medicine International Journal of Clinical Case Reports and Reviews International Journal of Clinical Nephrology International Journal of Clinical Psychology International Journal of Mediators of Inflammation International Journal of Oxidative Medicine and Cellular Longevity Journal of Clinical Anatomy Journal of Clinical and Laboratory Research Journal of Clinical Case Reports and Studies Journal of Clinical Otorhinolaryngology Journal of Clinical Research and Reports Journal of Clinical Surgery and Research Journal of Clinical Virology and Microbiology Journal of Heart and Vasculature Journal of Scientific Research and Biomedical Informatics Journal of Surgical Case Reports and Images Journal of Thoracic Disease and Cardiothoracic Surgery Neural Plasticity and Clinical Practice Neurodegeneration and Neurorehabilitation Neuroscience and Neurological Surgery New Medical Innovations and Research Obstetrics Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences Orthopaedics and Surgical Sports Medicine Pharmaceutics and Pharmacology Research Pollution and Public Health Reproductive Health and Issues Sleep Disorders and Therapeutics Spinal Diseases and Research Stem cell Research and Therapeutics International Vascular Neurology and Stroke Women Health Care and Issues

Cari Journals	tel. +1-(908)-891-6192 journals@carijournals.org Washington, DC 20007, USA	46	Animal Health International Journal of Health, Medicine and Nursing Practice International Journal of Health Sciences
Infact Publications	info@infactpublications.com	25	Annals of Family Medicine and Primary Care Annals of Neurological Research and Studies Annals of Pharmacology Archives of Advanced Biomedical Research Clinical Case Reports Journal Clinical Oncology Journal Clinical Studies in Gastroenterology and Hepatology Clinical Surgery Journal Clinics in Orthopedics and Sports Medicine Global Journal of Dental Medicine Global Journal of Gynecology and Obstetrics Research Global Journal of Ophthalmology Global journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Global Journal of Pediatrics Journal of Food Science, Nutrition and Metabolism Journal of Heart Disorders Journal of Internal Medicine and Clinical Research Journal of Otorhinolaryngology – ENT Research Journal of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Therapy World Journal of Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine World Journal of Dermatological Research World Journal of Emergency Medicine and Critical Care World Journal of Endocrinology and Diabetes World Journal of Public Health and Epidemiology World Journal of Radiology and Medical Imaging
International Peer Reviewed Journals and Books (IPRJB)	WhatsApp: +1-(763)-230-2394 journals@iprjb.org	44	Global Journal of Health Sciences Journal of Animal Health Journal of Health, Medicine and Nursing
Mediterranean Journals	none	12	Advances in Pharmaceutical Sciences Annals of Dental Sciences Annals of Public Health Current Medicine Infectious Diseases Reviews Nursing Archives Oncology Insights Surgery Insights Veterinary Medicine Reports
Medvix Publications	tel. +1-(302)-990-8444 info@medvixpublications.org	10	Journal of Cancer and Oncology Care Journal of Cardiology Preventive and Heart Disease Journal of Dentistry and Oral Health Journal of Dermo Cosmetics Surgery and Skinology Journal of Gynecology and Obstetrics Journal of Medical & Clinical Case Reports & Studies Journal of Medicine Care and Health Review Journal of Neurology Medicine and Neurosurgery Journal of Nutrition Methodology and Diabetic Care Journal of Surgery Research
SciDoc Publishers	tel. +1-(302)-703-1005	54	Anatomy and Applied Physiology Anesthesiology and Research Bone and Rheumatology Research Cancer Studies and Research Cardiology and Research Chronic Diseases and Therapy Clinical Dermatology and Research Clinical and Experimental Otorhinolaryngology Clinical and Medical Allergy Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology Clinical Therapeutics and Diagnosis Clinical Trials and Case Studies

Dentistry and Oral Science
 Diabetology and Vascular Disease Research
 Food Science, Nutrition and Dietetics
 Forensic Science and Pathology
 HIV/AIDS and Research
 JBR Journal of Translational Biomarkers & Diagnosis
 JBR Journal of Translational Clinical Case Reports and Family Physician
 JBR Journal of Translational Diagnostics and Technology
 JBR Journal of Translational Space Dentistry, Medicine and Exploration
 Medical Biotechnology and Genetics
 Microbiology and Advanced Immunology
 Natural Disasters and Health Security
 Ophthalmology and Eye Science
 Pediatric Health Care and Advancements
 Renal and Urinary System
 Reproduction, Fertility and Sexual Health
 Respiratory Disease, Care & Medicine
 Stem Cell Research and Transplantation
 Surgery and Research
 Translation and Community Medicine
 Vaccines and Research
 Veterinary Health Science and Research
 Virology Studies and Research

Total: 11 publishers Total: 447 journals Total: 236 medical journals

(Pretended?) stand-alone journals					
Title	ISSN	Volume 1	Editor ²	APC [#]	Additional contact
International Journal of Research in Agriculture and Forestry	(p) 2094-5907 (o) 2094-5915	2014	Wu Ma (USA)	100-300	editor@ijraf.org
International Journal of Research in Agriculture and Forestry	(p) 2094-5907 (o) 2094-5915	2014	Wu Ma (USA)	100-300	editor@ijraf.org
International Journal of Research in Business Studies and Management	(p) 2394-5923 (o) 2394-5931	2014	Steven V. Cates (USA)	100-300	editor@ijsbsm.org
International Journal of Research Studies in Medical and Health Sciences	2456-6373	2016	Saju Joseph (USA)	99-999	editor@ijrsmhs.org
World Journal of Hematology and Oncology	2834-118X	2019	Veenesh Selvaratnam (Malaysia)	not indicated on website	contact@wjoho.com
Insights of Clinical and Medical Image	2834-0825	2019	Spoorthi R. Banavar (Malaysia)	not indicated on website	contact@iocami.com
Insight Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology	2834-0752	2019	Muhammad Ifan (China)	not indicated on website	contact@joag.com
Insights Journal of Surgery and Clinical Case Reports	2834-1163	2019	Jinwei Zhang (UK)	not indicated on website	contact@ijsccr.com
Advances in Thoracic Diseases	2550-6048	2019	Mohamed Bouchikh* (Morocco)	not indicated on website	Contact Mediterranean Journals' + Rabat (Morocco)
International Journal of Clinical and Medical Case Reports	2517-7346	2018	Yuri E. Razodovsky* (Belarussia)	not indicated on website	T: +1-(502)-268-7483 info@ijclinmedcasereports.com
International Journal of Surgery	1743-9159	no archive	Ranjana Bhattacharjee (India)	GBP 1899	info@ijsopen.org
Total: 10 journals, of which 8 medical journals					

Year in which the journals under study published their first volume (or article) is presented in Figure 1.

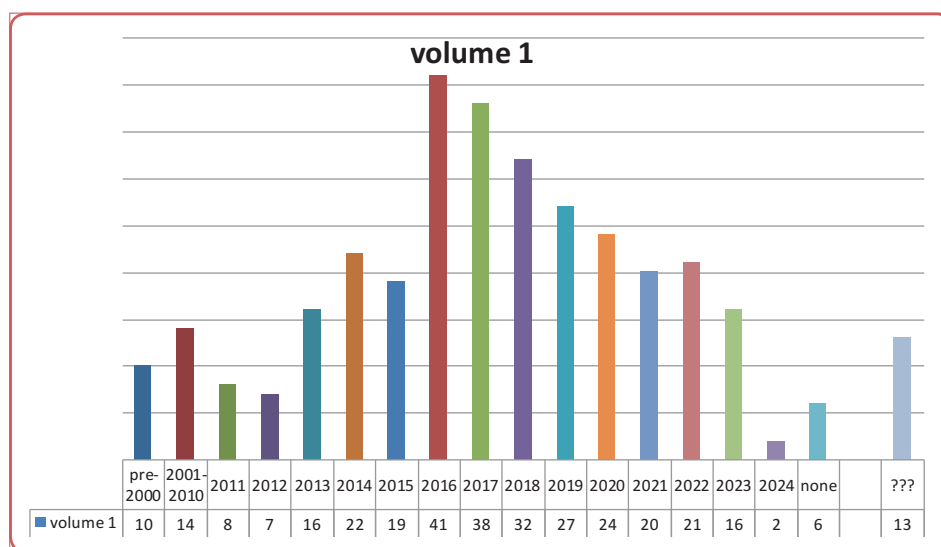


Figure 1: Years in which the journals under study published their first volume (or article)

Discussion

As mentioned in the Results section, the findings of our investigation need more details and also interpretation. Consequently, the next sub-sections deal, respectively, with the six earlier mentioned 'criteria': (1) the inclusion in predatory lists, (2) the year in which the journal was launched, (3) the presence of an Editor-in-Chief, (4) the presence of an ISSN, (5), the place where the publisher is located, and (6) the journals' names.

Inclusion in a predatory publishers list

Interestingly, 54 of the 105 publishers included in Table 1 (51.4 %) were present in Beall's list (although many publishers started quite recently), whereas 51 of the (then) 89 publishers (~57 %) were present on the list of Predatory Reports before it was removed from the internet. This implies that the majority of publishers that approached us with the request to contribute have been recognised already much earlier as (probably) predatory. It seems only logical to presume that this holds also (if not more) for the more recently started publishers.

The lesson to be learned: before submitting a manuscript to a journal is that it is useful to check whether the publisher or the journal is included in Beall's list (or one of the many other 'informal' lists. If so, it might be wise to reconsider the submission to the intended journal.

Most obvious: a recent start

The most obvious feature in Table 1 is that the overwhelming majority of the journals have been launched quite recently: 262 of the 322 journals (81.4 %) started in the past ten years (2014-2023), whereas only 10 journals (3.1 %) started before 2001 (13 journals – 4.0 % - had not yet published any issue, not rarely even more than half a year after the request to contribute, whereas the websites of 4 journals – 1.2 % - did not show an archive from which the year of launching could be reconstructed). Although the rapid progress of science and the numerous innovative developments result necessarily in new journals, it is remarkable that most new journals are not published by recognised science publishers, but by publishers that have started recently commonly dozens of new journals.

It should be mentioned in this context that the journals in Table 1, which may be presumed for a great majority as most likely predatory (even though some established publishers like Elsevier are included), are published commonly only in electronic form (only 35 journals = 11.1 % could be traced to have a printed version). Unfortunately, the year in which the first volume was published is not always traceable on the journal's website (see the remarks in the pertinent column of Table 1). This implies that the articles published in the older volumes are no longer accessible or retrievable, which is – obviously – against the

principles of science. Another remarkable finding is that some journals, asking recently for a manuscript, seem not to publish volumes anymore (see the *Journal of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology*: no volumes since 2014; the *Journal of Medicine and Biological Studies*: no volumes since 2018; the *International Journal of Veterinary Science and Research*: no volume since 2015; *JSM Microbiology*: no volumes since 2020; the *Journal of Palliative and Medical Care*: no volumes after the one-article 2021 volume); and the *Journal of Genetic Diseases and Therapeutics* (no volumes after the one-article 2022 volume). It can even be worse: the *MedPress Journal of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation* indicated on its website that a one-article volume had been launched in 2022, but this article is now no longer present on the site; the site still mentions, however, that it was started in 2022, but no volume has ever been published. One might really wonder why such journals ask potential authors to submit a manuscript: do they hope that “fresh authors” will wake up again a hibernating journal?

It is not exceptional that a new journal approaches specialists in the topic of the new journal with the request to contribute a manuscript for a first volume, mentioning when it will be launched. It is not well understandable, however, why probably predatory publishers ask to submit a manuscript even without mentioning that it is for a new journal and without providing any clue when it will be launched. The publishers in Table 1 with such a strange practice (the lack of any published volume was checked on the journals’ websites in July, 2024, in many cases more than 6 months after the request to contribute) are: Annex Publishers (*Journal of Genetic and Hereditary Research*), CEOS Publishers (*CEOS Obstetrics and Gynecology*; *CEOS Sports Medicine and Research*), EMRES Publishers (*eHealth Sciences*), MedClinics (*CMJ Medicine*, *CMJ Open Journal*, *Global Clinical and Medical Care Reports Journal*, *Journal of Case Reports in Clinical Medicine*, *Journal of Surgery and Perioperative Care*), Medpress Publishers (*Medpress Journal of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*), Probe Publisher (*Journal of Clinical Trials and Case Studies*), Salient Visionary Publications (*International Journal of Alternative, Complementary and Integrative Medicine*), Scholarena (*Journal of Genetic and Hereditary Case Studies*), ScieniQ Publishers (*Journal of Neurology and Neuroscience Research*), SciMed Press (*SMP Sports Science and Medicine*) and Stechnolock (*Annals of Sports and Exercise Medicine*).

A special trick aimed at suggesting that a relatively new journal has already a long (and successful) history is the publication of numerous volumes within one year. For a long time, it was the rule that a journal published one volume per year. The reason was that the printed(!) issues of a single year could be bound together. In the past few decades, some journals became so large that it was practically impossible to bind all issues of one year together. The solution was found in dividing the issues of a single year over a number of volumes that still allowed to be bound. This historically understandable development has changed fundamentally whenever more journals stopped to publish printed issues, but instead published only electronic versions. Still, however, serious journals do so in such a way that issues within a volume jointly form an entity that might allow being bound.

Several predatory journals have taken the opportunity to publish numerous volumes in a year, even if the number of included articles does not give any reason to do so. It is always tricky to pick out a single example, but doing so may make this clearer for the reader. The *Journal of Complementary and Alternative Medicine Research*, for instance, started with volume 1 in 2016, but publishes volume 25 in 2024. Even worse are some non-medical journals such as the *Technium Social Sciences Journal* that started in 2020 and publishes mid-2024 volume 60!

In this context it is also interesting that several journals in Table 1 do not indicate the year when the first issue was published. This year cannot always be checked either, because some journals do not show all earlier volumes on their website; this implies that the only valuable reason to make interesting findings known to the scientific community is not realised when publishing in such a journal.

The lesson to be learned: before submitting a manuscript to a journal, check its archive. If the journal was started less than 15 years ago, if some years are lacking in the archive, or if some of the volumes of the past five years contain less than some 25 research articles, it might be reasonable to check the journal for more predatory characteristics.

The Editor-in-Chief

The quality of a good scientific journal should be guaranteed by the Editor-in-Chief, who should be an expert in the field, with a good helicopter view,

enabling him/her not only to attract specialist reviewers, but also to judge the quality of the reviews. Consequently, truly scholarly journals therefore always mention the Editor-in-Chief in a prominent place, on the journal's cover and/or on the journal's website.

It is therefore interesting that predatory journals fairly rarely have an Editor-in-Chief (or they keep them hidden). Only 85 (26.3 %) of the journals mentioned in Table 1 mention an Editor-in-Chief. Several of them seem not or hardly known among scientists of the pertinent discipline. Moreover, some of these Editors-in-Chief cannot spend the time required for such an activity, considering their activities for several journals.

Remarkable is that numerous scientists agree to become editor of several journals, even if most of these journals have hardly any history, if at all. It remains an enigma why so many serious scientists risk their scientific reputation by lending their name to predatory journals. Analysis of the 'collection' of editorial functions (sometimes several dozens, including several positions as Editor-in-Chief!) is the subject of a separate study.

The lesson to be learned: checking whether a journal has an Editor-in-Chief and, if so, whether it is a recognised scientist in the discipline and whether the editor can find sufficient time for his editorial activities, may help to decide about the predatory nature of a journal.

ISSN

Journals have an ISSN (or two, in the case of a printed and an online version) in order to have an unambiguous code to recognise them. An ISSN guarantees that there is no other established journal with the same ISSN. This does not imply, however, that no other journal with the same name can exist: a publisher may, unfortunately, start a new journal with the same title as another journal. Most countries do, however, not allow publishing a book or a journal with the same name as a book/journal published earlier in the same country. Predatory publishers therefore often give new journals names that are very much alike already existing recognised journals. An interesting example is the *Journal of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology*: this title is used by two publishers that are indicated on Beall's list of potential predatory publishers,¹⁷ namely Maples (India) and Academia Publishing (UK). Neither of these journals has an ISSN. It is not amazing

that also a somewhat older journal (volume 1 in 2011) exists with the comparable name *Journal of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases*; this journal is published in Tripoli (Libya) by Eldaghayes with ISSN 2146-3158 (printed) and 2146-2369 (online).

If a journal has no ISSN, there may be three reasons: (1) the publisher does not want to pay the (comparatively small) fee for the ISSN (but no serious publisher will thus deliberately show that he is some kind of outcast-publisher), (2) the publisher may have applied for an ISSN but not yet have received it (which can last for only a short time and certainly not for half a year or more); and (3) the publisher did not apply for an ISSN or the ISSN has not been provided because already a journal with the same title exists.

The lesson to be learned: if a journal does not clearly show its ISSN on the website and certainly if a publisher has several journals without an ISSN (see, for instance, Annex Publishers in Table 1), it may be worthwhile to check whether the journal and/or publisher show more characteristics that are more common for predatory than for other journals/publishers.

Publisher's address

Many scientific journals have started in the past as small, often one-person, companies. This time is over, however, because of the ever-larger complexity of publishing. Searching for and corresponding with reviewers, investing in ever more sophisticated printing machinery, etc is so time-consuming and requires such large investments that only somebody with sufficient expertise in both the scientific discipline and insight into the technical and financial aspects of publishing might satisfactorily carry out such a job (which would be a hell of a job).

There are, indeed, stand-alone journals (20 in Table 1), but these show some remarkable characteristics: 7 are located in India and 13 are located in the USA. One might wonder about the Indian journals (the country is, unfortunately but justifiably, known for its numerous predatory publishers and journals), but there is also something strange about the American stand-alone journals. We found, for instance, that some journals and publishers mentioned in Table 1 have exactly the same address in Lewes, DE (16192 Coastal Highway) without mentioning any relationship. This made us dig somewhat deeper into this enigma

and our findings are astonishing (see next section). We also found that some dozens of Indian 'stand-alone' journals have the same telephone number. This puzzling feature is dealt with after the next section.

A labyrinth within a jungle

A search on the internet shows that the just-mentioned address (16192 Coastal Highway in Lewes, DE) is a fairly small building where Journal Capital Partners LLC is housed. This company has an agent, Harvard Business Services Inc, housed at the same address.

They apparently offer companies and persons who do not want to reveal their true identities, the opportunity to mention this address as their place of office (it seems that the Delaware authorities make such so-called virtual offices easy and attractive). We found that, apart from at least several dozens of some other businesses, 11 publishers of scientific journals and 10 stand-alone scientific journals (of which 8 medical journals) use this opportunity to hide their true place of work. And the place of work must be somewhere else, indeed, considering the limited space at this address and the large number (447) of journals that are pretended to be handled there (Table 2).

Interesting is also that three journals housed at this address (*International Journal of Research in Agriculture and Forestry*, *International Journal of Research in Business Studies and Management*, and *International Journal of Research Studies in Medical and Health Sciences*), all pretending to be stand-alone journals, have almost completely identical websites and their contact addresses (only email addresses) have an identical structure; moreover, the covers of these journals show the Sryahwa logo (this publisher is also housed here), but the three journals do not indicate that they belong to Sryahwa, while this publisher does not mention these journals on its website. This can be explained only as an attempt to confuse potential authors and readers.

Something similar regards three other 'stand-alone' journals in Table 2 (*Insights Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*; *Insights Journal of Surgery and Clinical Case Reports*; and *Insights of Clinical and Medical Image*). Their websites are almost identical and their contact addresses (only email addresses) have the same structure, but thus far we were unable to trace how these journals are related.

The journal *Advances in Thoracic Diseases* is puzzling as well; it shows, when pressing the button for 'contact' (accessed: 30 August 2023; repeated: 16 July 2024): "Contact: Mediterranean Journals". Surprising, as this publisher, who is housed at the same address (see Table 2), does not mention this journal.

These confusing data regarding the true nature of the 'stand-alone' journals in Table 2 are not exceptional: hidden relationships between journals seem fairly common. A close relationship must also exist between, for instance, the *Journal on Surgery* and *Epidemiology and Public Health* (see Table 1): both 'stand-alone' journals are housed, together with several other journals (and publishers), at the same address (848 N Rainbow Blvd #5483, NV 89107, Las Vegas). A simple search on the internet shows not only that more businesses and journals (including several medical journals) are housed at this address, but also SciBase Journals (see Table 1). Yet, the journals do not mention this publisher and *SciBase Journals* does not mention these journals.

The above jungle, giving authors and readers the feeling that they are trapped in a labyrinth, appears fairly common. A somewhat different but nevertheless comparable example is presented by the journals *Journal of Clinical Case Reports*, *Medical Images and Health Sciences* and *Journal of Clinical Studies and Medical Images, Case Reports*. Both have the same ZIP code in Frisco, but only the former journal provides a street address. However, both journals present the same phone number: (+1)313-786-0006. One must therefore deduce that both journals, despite pretending to be stand-alone examples, form part of an organisation that does not want to be known. Not a good attitude for a scientific journal! Unfortunately, more comparable examples can be found: the journal *Med Discoveries*, for instance, a stand-alone journal (Table 2) is housed in Franklin Park, NJ. This address houses also another stand-alone journal: *Annals of Case Reports and Medical Images*. No telephone numbers are provided by these two journals. Could one imagine that two persons, living at the same address, both started a medical journal, independent of each other?

It is not uncommon that the postal address of a publisher turns out to be a suite. Checking these addresses indicates in many cases that a company resides there that offers the opportunity to rent a virtual office, not rarely just a post-box and possibly a joint phone operator or even just equipment

to automatically forward a call. The real editorial office is located elsewhere. A keen reader may find several more comparable examples by analysing the data presented in Tables 1 and 2. If only these few hundreds of journals in Tables 1 and 2 show so many dubious addresses, it can only be deduced that the tens of thousands of new (mostly medical) journals should be looked at with suspicion.

How far publishers go with hiding their activities is clear from another example. In July and August, I received requests to contribute to the *Journal of Geography, Environment and Earth Science International* as well as to the *International Journal of Environment and Climate Change*. I checked the websites of both journals, which gave the impression to be stand-alone journals, but I found that the layout of their websites is identical. Checking once more, I had to deduce that there was no publisher. Digging deeper into the internet, however, I found many more journals with identical websites and eventually I managed to detect their common publisher (in India): Science Domain International. They publish in several disciplines: agricultural and food science (17 journals), biology (17 journals), chemistry (5 journals), computer science (1 journal), energy (1 journal), engineering (1 journal), earth sciences (5 journals), materials science (1 journal), mathematics (3 journals), medicine (43 journals), multidisciplinary (5 journals), physics and astronomy (5 journals) and social sciences (8 journals). These 112 journals all have the same phone number: a recipe for a headache for the phone operator!

A critical check of the address can help finding out about the predatory nature of a publisher or journal. Admittedly, this check can be time-consuming and frustrating because websites do often not present the required information. Particularly visiting addresses are often not indicated. Moreover, direct contact through email is often impossible: one can only leave a message on the journal's or publisher's website with personal data (with the promise to be contacted soon). Such obstacles to reach a publisher or a journal are, obviously, clear evidence that the publisher/journal is dubious.

The journal's name

Numerous predatory journal names have a 'prefix' that serves two purposes: (1) it adds little or nothing, but makes it easy to confuse the journal with a truly scholarly one and (2) the slightly different

name allows applying successfully for an ISSN. Common examples of such a 'prefix' are: 'Annals' [eg, *Annals of Clinical Case Reports* (Remedy Publications) vs *Clinical Case Reports* (Wiley)]; 'Archives' [eg, *Archives of Preventive Medicine* (Peertechz Publications) vs *Preventive Medicine* (Elsevier)]; 'Current Trends' [eg, *Current Trends in Internal Medicine* (Gavin Publishers) vs *Internal Medicine* (Japanese Society of Internal Medicine)]; 'Global Journal' [eg, *Global Journal of Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities* (Juniper Publishers) vs *Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities* (American Association on Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities)]; 'Open Journal' [eg, *Open Journal of Public Health* (Remedy Publications) vs *Journal of Public Health* (Springer)]; 'Open Access' [eg, *Open Access Journal of Toxicology* (Juniper Publishers) vs *Toxicology* (Elsevier)]; or the publisher's name [(eg, *Austin Sports Medicine* vs *Sports Medicine* (Springer))].

Another commonly applied trick with the names of predatory journals is a change in the order of subjects (or the addition of a term) in comparison to the name of an established journal. Examples are the journals dealing with complementary therapies. Table 1 shows only some of these journals, namely *Asian Journal of Complementary and Alternative Medicine* (ACAD-WISE), *Journal of Alternative, Complementary & Integrative Medicine* (Herald Scholarly Open Access), *International Journal of Modern and Alternative Medicine Research* (Blue Penn Journals), *Online Journal of Complementary & Alternative Medicine* (Iris Publishers), *Journal of Complementary Medicine & Alternative Healthcare* (Juniper Publishers), *Open Access Journal of Complementary & Alternative Medicine* (Lupine Publishers) and *Journal of Complementary and Alternative Medicine Research* (stand-alone).

Finally, it should be mentioned that, remarkably enough, the titles of some predatory journals are so awkward, that they raise the question of whether the publisher is interested at all in the journal, or in attracting authors that understand English. An example is the stand-alone(?) journal *Insights of Clinical and Medical Images*.

The lesson to be learned: check with some keywords on the internet which journals exist that deal with the topic(s). If there are several journals, check whether they represent a recognised publisher and whether the name is consistent with the contents of the most recent volume.

There is nothing like scientific truth

It would be beneficial for all scientists, as well as for the scientific community as a whole, if it could be established with certainty which publishers and journals are predatory, and which are not. Unfortunately, this is not possible. Not only because there are in principle gradual transitions between predatory and non-predatory journals, but also because scientific truth does not exist. What is scientifically correct nowadays need not be so tomorrow.²⁰ In other words: publishers that are considered predatory today need not be considered so tomorrow (and *vice versa!*). This may be due to a change in philosophy, but there may be other reasons as well. It has occurred, for instance, that non-predatory journals were taken over by predatory publishers. It also occurred that high-reputation publishers incorporated another journal that had been published before under dubious conditions or in a not commonly accessible language (eg, Chinese).

Consequently, one cannot draw a distinct line between predatory and non-predatory journals that is not open for discussion. Nevertheless, numerous publishers and journals have a distinct predatory nature, as revealed by a combination of characteristics several of which have been detailed above. This might help serious scientists to decide whether a journal is worth to be published in.

Conclusions

The rapidly increasing number of predatory publishers and journals threatens the reliability of science. Authors, reviewers and editors alike should therefore avoid becoming involved in such journals and – even more – in publishing companies that publish such journals. Recognising the predatory nature of a publisher is not always easy, but checking for a few characteristics that show significant differences between predatory and non-predatory journals may help. Since the above findings are based on our own recent experiences, we suggest all fellow-scientists to archive data such as shown in Table 1, since this may provide a tool that becomes in the course of time ever more effective in deciding about the reliability of a journal.

A probably even more important conclusion is that predatory publishers (and journals) appear to see the medical community as their most promising prey: more than half of the predatory journals (and their activities) concern this discipline.²¹ This implies that researchers and practitioners in medical and paramedical disciplines should be extremely careful when approached to contribute to a journal as an editor, reviewer or author. Becoming involved might significantly reduce their scientific credibility and their reputation in the medical community.

Ethics

This study was an analysis based on the currently existing data and did not directly involve human participants or experimental animals. Therefore, the ethics approval and informed consent was not required in this paper.

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Conflicts of interest

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Data access

All data are provided in the two Tables and can be checked on the Internet.

Author ORCID numbers

Olaf R van Loon (ORvL):
0000-0002-2833-7575
AJ (Tom) van Loon (AJvL):
0000-0002-8906-1728

Author contributions

Conceptualisation: AJvL
Methodology: ORvL, AJvL
Formal analysis: AJvL
Investigation: ORvL, AJvL
Writing - original draft: AJvL
Writing - review and editing: ORvL
Visualisation: AJvL
Supervision: AJvL
Project administration: ORvL

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