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What really are predatory practices? :

- It's basically a "pay for your publication" based unethical business model disguised as a scientific practice employed by fraudulent organizations such as predatory journals and conferences.
- They circulate scientific findings without peer review and exploiting researchers with the lure of easy success.

According to Nature, 2019 :

"Predatory journals and publishers are entities that prioritize **self-interest at the expense of scholarship** and are characterized by:

- 1) false or misleading information
- 2) deviation from best editorial and publication practices
- 3) a lack of transparency, and/or the use of aggressive and indiscriminate solicitation practices."

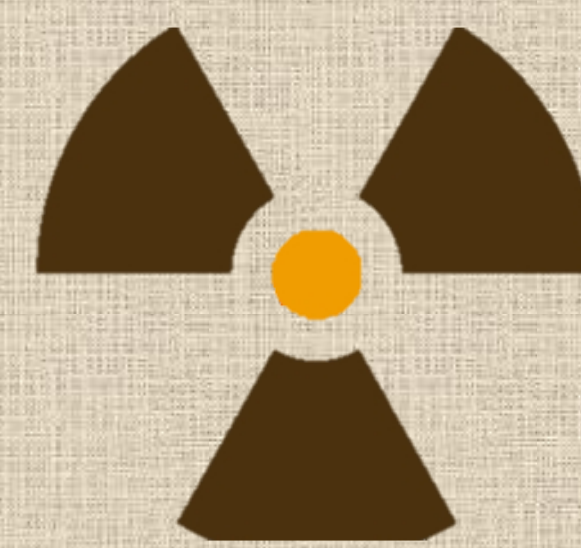


Signs of a Predatory Journal: The Red Flags

- Promises unrealistic publication timeline (Sometimes within 24 hrs) in exchange of **a Article processing charge**.
- Has a **name identical to a reputed Journal**. Like "NaturePub" resembling "Nature".
- Acceptance **without peer-review** (though claims to be peer reviewed)
- No quality control ; **poor quality**
- Little to **no copy editing** and proof-reading
- Previously published articles are most of the time **not aligned with/ irrelevant** to the aim and goal of the journal.
- Unprofessional sometimes "flattering" emails, often using **gmail/yahoo account**, requesting to submit manuscript or serve on editorial board
- **Spelling mistakes** and typos in published articles
- Poorly made fake website.

FAKE EDITORIAL BOARD !!!
FAKE IMPACT FACTOR !!!

Why is this practice so harmful?



- Permanent stain on academic reputation.
- Cancellation of scholarships or job.
- Circulation of flawed research in scientific community.
- Corrupting the scientific culture of peer-review without which reproducibility of results can be questioned.
- Waste of money and effort- work disregarded by the academic community.
- Medical science is most vulnerable with potential risks to human lives.
- It provides easy pathway for promotions and accolades for incompetent and unethical academic denying opportunities to better qualified and well deserved researchers.

Fake Science ==> Real science

No Experience needed to join Ed board

Acceptance guaranteed

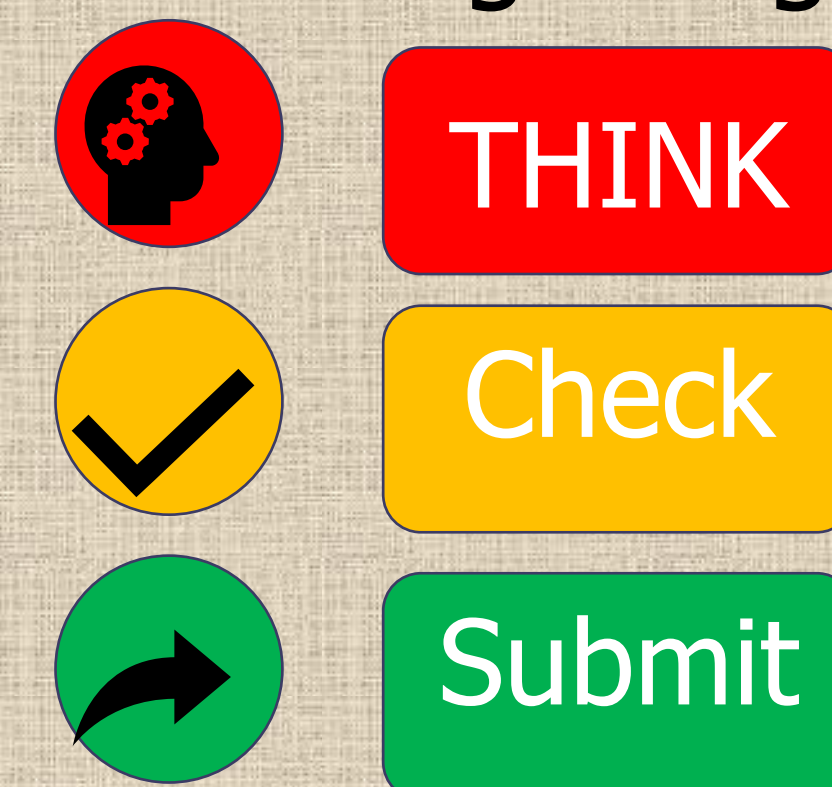


No review

No Wait

How to traverse this minefield of predatory journals : The solution

- Researchers need to be educated on how to identify predatory journals. Using the golden rule:



- Research institutions need to provide incentives for their researchers to publish in legitimate journals.
- Funding agencies need to audit where research they are funding is being published and disincentivize further submissions to predatory journals.

Let's create awareness against predatory practice

