

## The Editor's Bookshelf

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### ECONOMICS AND FUNDING

#### Jones R. **Open access publishing: a new direction for medical journals.**

*The British Journal of General Practice: the Journal of the Royal College of General Practitioners* 2012;62(603):514-515

In the last few years ideas for a new business model for science publishing have emerged, based on open access. This development has been accelerated by the increasing use of online publication. An analysis over the last 2.5 years of articles published in *The British Journal of General Practice* showed that about 50% of them were funded by organizations likely to include article-processing charges (APCs) in their research grants. However, 50% of articles were not. doi: 10.3399/bjgp12X654830

### EDITORIAL PROCESS

Haak LL, Fenner M, Paglione L, *et al.*

#### **ORCID: a system to uniquely identify researchers.**

*Learned Publishing* 2012;25(4):259-264  
ORCID (Open Researcher & Contributor ID) aims to provide a solution to the problem of author name ambiguity in scholarly communication. Benefits include reduced reporting workload, improved attribution, and a better understanding of knowledge flows. This paper details steps for publishers to integrate ORCID into manuscript submission systems, and provides recommendations for specifying and displaying ORCID metadata. doi: 10.1087/20120404

Luo M, Chuan C, Molina D, *et al.*  
**Accuracy of citation and quotation in foot and ankle surgery journals.**  
*Foot & Ankle International* 2013

Febr.4;34(2):1-7

According to this paper, authors often quote references without reading and understanding the content, and such action may damage the integrity of the author and that of the journal. The aim of this study was to explore the reference accuracy for three of the major foot and ankle surgery journals and two of the major orthopaedic journals. Results showed that citation and quotation errors were still relatively common. The authors suggest that the use of technical editing may reduce the number of citation errors. doi: 10.1177/1071100713475354

### ETHICAL ISSUES

Bosch X, Hernández, Pericas JM, *et al.* **Misconduct policies in medical journals.** *PloS ONE* 2012;7(12):e51928

This study assessed the prevalence and content policies of the most influential biomedical journals on misconduct and procedures for handling and responding to allegations of misconduct. The results showed that one-third of journals provided explicit definitions of misconduct and less than half procedures for responding. There were significant differences in policies and procedures between publishers. The authors recommend that ethical guidelines should be easily accessible and address research integrity topics including misconduct policies. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0051928

Broga M, Mijaljica G, Waligora M, *et al.* **Publication ethics in biomedical journals from countries in Central and Eastern Europe.** *Science and Engineering Ethics* e-pub 1 March 2013

This article examined publication ethics policies in biomedical journals published in Central and Eastern Europe. It demonstrated significant differences in the prevalence of policies between East European countries that are members of the European Union and South-East European countries that are not. The most common ethical issues addressed were redundant publication, peer review process, and

copyright and licensing details. The least frequently addressed policies for both regions were image manipulation, editors' conflicts of interest and registration of clinical trials. doi: 10.1007/s11948-013-9431-x

Chalmers I, Glasziou P, Goodle F. **All trials must be registered and the results published.** *BMJ* 2013;346:f105

Under-reporting of research can lead to overestimates of the benefits of treatments and underestimates of their harmful effects. Failure to publish all the results from clinical trials distorts the evidence base for clinical decisions. The responsibilities of authors are clear, but there is also clear and consistent evidence that academics and non-commercial funders are just as guilty as industry. doi: 10.1136/bmj.f105

Fang FC, Steen RG, Casadevall A. **Misconduct accounts for the majority of retracted scientific publications.** *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 2012;109(42):16751-16752

A detailed review of all 2,047 biomedical and life-science research articles indexed by PubMed as retracted on May 3, 2012 revealed that only 21.3% of retractions were attributable to error. In contrast, 67.4% of retractions were attributable to misconduct, including fraud, duplicate publication and plagiarism. doi: 10.1073/iti4212109

Maisonneuve H. **The management of errors and scientific fraud by biomedical journals: they cannot replace institutions.** *La Presse Medicale* 2012;41(9):853-860

Journals do not have the aim to assess research integrity: that's the institutions' role. Journals discover research misconduct when articles are reviewed, or after the article is published. The peer review system is criticised, including the anonymous peer review: it has never been proved that quality of anonymous reading was better than quality of open reading. When errors and

fraud are identified, journals can publish 3 statements: erratum for errors, expression of concern for errors or fraud when evidence is not established, and retraction when evidence is obvious.

doi: 10.1016/j.lpm.2012.05.009

Shapiro BR, Ossorio PN. **Regulation of online social network studies.** *Science* 11 Jan 2013;339: 144-145

This article addresses two ethical and regulatory issues related to social networking sites (SNSs): whether adolescents participating in research on SNSs should be categorized as children for regulatory purposes; and the extent to which researchers may collect data about SNS participants. One of this pilot study's questions is whether SNS science education games can help overcome race and gender disparities in science education.

Smith DR. **Authorship, scholarship and ergonomics.** *Le Travail Humain* 2012;72(4):397-403

Authorship represents a contentious issue for modern academics, researchers and journal editors.

In recent years there has been an alarming rise in publications with significant numbers of authors. Various methods have now been proposed for establishing author credit, although no uniform requirements have yet been agreed upon. Regardless of the method which is ultimately chosen to address this issue, openness, transparency and fairness in authorship clearly need to return to the forefront of publishing and scientific ethics.

Wager E. **The Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE): objectives and achievements 1997-2012.** *La Presse Medicale* 2012;41(9):861-866

COPE has now over 7,000 members. The article describes its history, role, growth, governance and funding, and the development of guidelines. Each member may bring anonymised cases to a quarterly forum, and cases form the basis for guidance such as the flowcharts that have been translated into several languages. COPE aims at encouraging journal editors and publishers to consider the ethical

implications of their policies and practices.

doi: 10.1016/j.lpm.2012.02.049

## LANGUAGE AND WRITING

Liumbruno GM, Velati C, Pasqualetti P, et al. **How to write a scientific manuscript for publication.** *Blood Transfusion* e-pub 21 December 2012;1-11

This article addresses the multiple steps requiring in writing original articles and reviews with the aim of providing the reader with the necessary tools to prepare, submit and successfully publish a manuscript. Types of literature considered are: editorials, commentaries, narrative reviews, qualitative systematic reviews, and quantitative systematic reviews.

Marušić A, Gasparyan AY, Kitas GD. **Promoting transparent and accurate reporting of research studies in rheumatology: endorsement of reporting guidelines in rheumatology journals.** *Seminars in Arthritis and Rheumatism* 2013 (in press)

Reporting guidelines promote accurate and transparent reporting of health research studies. To assess the endorsement of reporting guidelines in rheumatology journals, this article analyzed the best practices in most influential rheumatology journals. Results showed that only a third of the journals endorsed any reporting guideline, most commonly CONSORT. The journals should also get involved in developing and testing guidelines specific for rheumatology research. doi: 10.1016/j.semarthrit.2013.01.005

Simera I. **Get the content right: following reporting guidelines will make your research paper more complete, transparent and usable.** *Journal of Pakistan Medical Association* 2013;63(2):283-285

This article provides a brief overview of key reporting guidelines (CONSORT, STROBE, COREQ, ENTREQ, PRISMA, STARD, and SQUIRE) and highlights other resources supporting the writing of high quality research publications which are available on the EQUATOR Network. The majority of

guidelines listed on the EQUATOR website are more specific, providing guidance relevant to a particular medical specialty or a particular aspect of research.

## PUBLISHING

Al-Maawali A, Al Busadi A, Al-Adawi S. **Biomedical publications profile and trends in Gulf Cooperation Council countries.** *Sultan Qaboos University Medical Journal* 2012;12(1):41-47

This study is the first detailed analysis of publication productivity in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates). It aimed to ascertain the number of biomedical publications in the GCC from 1970 to 2010; to establish the rate of publication according to population size; and to determine the relationship between the number of publications and specific socio-economic parameters. Overall, the six countries showed a rising trend in publication numbers.

Ajami S, Movahedi F. **Challenges for authors and publishers in scientific journals.** *Pakistan Journal of Medical Sciences* 2013;29(1)Suppl:432-436

This study aimed to express the challenges of authors and publishers in scientific journals. More than 100 articles and reports were selected based on their relevancy to discuss such issues as authorship criteria, plagiarism, and fraud. doi: 10.12669/pjms.291(Suppl).3550

Caan W, Cole M. **How much doctoral research on clinical topics is published?** *Evidence-Based Medicine* 2012;17(3):71-74

This study aimed to determine how often clinical research from doctoral degree programmes is unpublished and what characteristics exist between those researchers who do or do not publish their work or between the institutions where they studied. Results showed that research evidence associated with doctoral degrees is often left unpublished. Supporting students in publishing preliminary work while they are still in doctoral

programmes may be the most productive solution.  
doi: 10.1136/ebmed-2011-100227

Erren TC, Erren M, Shaw DM. **Peer reviewers can meet journals' criteria for authorship.** *BMJ* 2013;346:f166  
Should some reviewers be credited as authors? Accurate interpretation of evidence in medicine requires accurate evidence regarding the role of reviewers. In principle, some contributions by reviewers may justify credit for authorship under the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) criteria. No journals seem to specify how to acknowledge advice from reviewers who contributed substantially to the final paper, and a few even discourage such acknowledgements. It may also be necessary for them to declare any potential conflicts of interest, whether theoretical or financial.  
doi: 10.1136/bmj.f166

Magar A. **Scientific publications in Nepal.** *Journal of Nepal Health Research Council* 2012;10(22):243-249  
This article analyzes the past and present scenario for scientific publications in Nepal, and future perspectives. Since the start of the first medical journal in 1963, issues related to the roles of authors, peer reviewers, editors and publishers in Nepal are decades back. Over the years, there has been some developments in terms of numbers of articles published, in local science scenario, in the younger generation being more interested in scientific research and evidence-based medicine, in increasing awareness about the importance of research ethics and improvement of journals standards.

Manista FC. **"Open don't mean free": a reflection on the potential advantages and disadvantages of open access publishing.** *Journal of Librarianship and Scholarly Communication* 2012;1(2):eP1049  
The evolution of open access is important, but proposed OA approaches have not yet resolved issues involving dissemination and distribution of high quality research. The Finch Report, released in the UK,

is a significant attempt to ensure that research is made available openly and for the benefit of everyone, including the public and others outside of academe. Some key issues, such as those related to financial aspects, are not adequately addressed in the Report ("open don't mean free") and need to be considered.  
doi: 10.7710/2162-3309.1049

## RESEARCH EVALUATION

Kozak M, Bornmann L. **A new family of cumulative indexes for measuring scientific performance.** *PLoS ONE* 2012;7(10):e47679  
This paper proposes a new family of cumulative indexes for measuring scientific performance which can be applied to many metrics, including *h* index and its variants. These indexes follow the general principle of repeating the index calculation for the same publication set. This repetition can be carried out with different data sets (scientists, journals, etc.). According to the authors, these new indexes seem not only to be effective, but they are also easy to understand and calculate.  
doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0047679

van der Wall EE. **Journal impact factor: holy grail?** *Netherlands Heart Journal* 2012;20:385-386  
There are several ways to artificially improve the impact factor of a journal. This article gives some examples of this manipulative strategy: editors may stimulate authors to cite papers published in the journal in which they are to be published; the number of citable papers can be purposely limited to only original and review articles. At present, no valid alternative to the impact factor has gained sufficient ground.  
doi: 10.1007/s12471-012-0317-3

## SCIENCE

Couzin-Frankel J. **Shaking up science.** *Science* 25 Jan 2013;339:386-389  
Ferric Fang, editor in chief of the journal *Infection and Immunity*, and Arturo Casadevall of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York, and now editor in chief of the journal *mBio*, are an unlikely

duo that disenchantment brought together almost five years ago. They take a hard look at honesty in science, that has changed in some worrying ways in recent decades, and question the ethos of their profession. This involves particularly biomedical research, which consumes a larger and larger share of government science spending. The two began publishing articles together, exploring scientists' dependence on grants to pay their salaries and questioning proposed changes to peer review.

Greco A, Bornmann L, Marx W. **Bibliometric analysis of scientific development in countries of the Union of South American Nations (Unasur).** [article in Spanish] *El profesional de la información* 2012;21(6):607-612  
Using advanced bibliometric methods, this paper investigated for the first time the development of science and technology in the Unasur region in comparison to other countries worldwide in terms of bibliometric data. The publication output results revealed an increase in the scientific and technological activities in most of the Unasur countries (especially Brazil). However, compared to the rest of the world, the trend of citation impact is less favourable for all Unasur countries.  
doi: 10.3145/epi.2012.nov.07

Jazayeri SB, Alavi A, Rahimi-Movaghar V. **Situation of medical sciences in 50 top countries from 1996 to 2010-based on quality and quantity of publications.** *Acta Medica Iranica* 2012;50(4):273-278  
This study compared countries worldwide in the field of medical research from both aspects of quantity and quality of research outputs. Some modified scientometric indices (such as citation per publication, and publication per population) were used to rank countries and to identify which of them have performed better in research outcomes by quality and quantity.

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