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The Pleasures and Perils of Medical Publishing

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The Pleasures and Perils of Medical Publishing

Richard Alweis, MD

DIO and Associate CMO for Education

Rochester Regional Health

October 23, 2021

Purpose

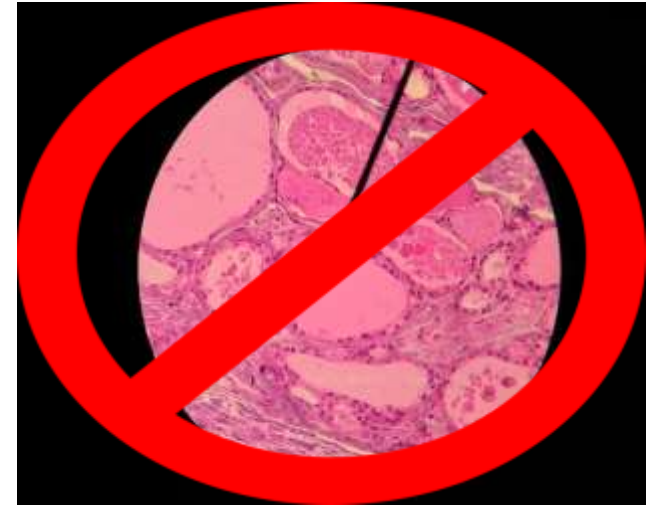
- Provide an evidence/guideline-based (where existing) discussion on medical publishing, and ~~make it up~~ provide a lessons learned approach where it doesn't

Who am I? A Series of Disclosures

- A story to begin our tale...
- Somehow, also now in the medical journal publishing game, so:
 - Associate Editor-in-Chief for the *Journal of Community Hospital Internal Medicine Perspectives*
 - Associate Editor-in-Chief for the *Advances in Clinical Medical Research and Healthcare Delivery*.
 - I receive no compensation for either position, and do not represent the journals today
- Every anecdote in this presentation is 100% true

Framing Case: Something's Rotten in the State of Pennsylvania

- Resident at Hospital A writing case report
- Pathology was a send out to Hospital B
- Hospital B pathologist asked to send photo of slide to include in case report
- Pathologist refuses to release slide without being listed as an author on the case report
- What action(s) would you recommend to Hospital A resident?



Agenda

- At the end of today's discussion, participants will be able to:
 - Describe qualities of a manuscript that are attractive to editors
 - Recognize potential red flags to editors
 - Identify the standards used to determine authorship
 - Identify a process to determine a journal for submission
 - Describe the characteristics of Open Access publishing
 - Recognize the signs that a journal is predatory open access
 - Time Permitting:
 - Describe the process for a journal to become "real"

What do editors want to see in a manuscript?

Framing Case: The Heroine in the Story Slays the Dragon

- **Abstract**

- “Chasing the dragon syndrome”, is a rare neurological condition which is caused by heroine abuse. Also known as Heroine induced leukoencephalopathy, the condition occurs after inhalation of heroine. This mode of heroine consumption traces its origin in Southeast Asia¹. The condition can present with a number of initial neurological symptoms, such as headache, confusion, visual impairment, somnolence and seizures. MRI remains an important diagnostic aid. We present a case of a 64-year-old lady who was brought in the ER of Detroit Medical Centre with complaint of seizures. The history, subsequent clinical course, and MRI findings were consistent with Heroine induced Leukoencephalopathy. We report this case for its rarity.

- If you are the editor, and this is the abstract of a manuscript that you received, what are your thoughts?

What is an Editor or Peer Reviewer Seeking?

- Abstract:
 - Easily understood without reading manuscript
 - No references, acronyms, or abbreviations
- Introduction:
 - Explains goals in 3 paragraphs (or less)
- Methods:
 - Provides sufficient detail that study can be replicated
 - Appropriate statistical analysis
- Results:
 - Appropriate scientific redundancy (e.g., controls) and rigor applied throughout
 - More tables/figures, less words

What is an Editor or Peer Reviewer Seeking?

- Discussion:
 - Findings in perspective, rather than simply rehashing results
 - Compare findings with prior ones in the literature
 - Honest assessment of the limitations of the study
- Figures and Tables:
 - Clear, concise, obvious labels and clear added value
- References:
 - Appropriate?
 - In journal format?
- Quality of Writing:
 - Is it any good?



#1 error I see

Follow the
journal style
guide!

#1 Editor Pet
Peeve

What are potential red flags to editors?

Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) Signs That Might Indicate Authorship Problems (1)

- Unspecified role in acknowledgements 
- Unfeasibly long or short author list 
- Questionable role of contributors
- Similarity check shows work derived from other work where the original author is not on the author list or acknowledged
- Language quality in the manuscript does not match that of the cover letter
- Corresponding author seems unable to respond to reviewers' comments

Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) Signs That Might Indicate Authorship Problems (2)

- From the category of, “I see their name all over the word document but not on the title page...”
 - Manuscript by someone not on the author list or acknowledged
 - Tracking in manuscript shows that authors added or removed
 - Authorship changes without notification during revisions
- Several similar article have been published under different author names or aliases
- Impossibly prolific author

What standards are used to determine authorship?

Authorship Rules (1)

• Who is an author? Per the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE):

4 criteria--all connected by AND not OR:

1. “Substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data for the work
2. Drafting the work or revising it critically for important intellectual content
3. Final approval of the version to be published
4. Agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.”

A particular area where senior authors and well-known researchers have gotten into trouble

Authorship Rules (2)

- Other requirements:
 - Author should be able to identify which co-authors are responsible for specific other parts of the work
 - All members of a group named as authors must meet all four criteria for authorship

Framing Case: The True Tale of A, B, and C

- A chance encounter at the annual ACGME meeting....
- A partnership that goes bad
- An ugly authorial order dispute...

- **What do you recommend?**

Authorship Disputes (1)

- COPE Best Practices:
 - Every team should have a written authorship agreement before the article is written. Make sure everyone understands to and agrees.
 - Disagreements about authorship classified into two types:
 - Disputes – do not contravene ICMJE guidelines
 - Misconduct – contravene ICMJE guidelines

Adapted from: How to handle authorship disputes:

<https://publicationethics.org/resources/guidelines-new/how-handle-authorship-disputesa-guide-new-researchers>

Authorship Disputes (2)

- Keep these in mind:

- Editors:



- COPE:



Framing Case: The True Tale of A, B, and C Continued

- Author meeting
- Plagiarism alleged
- Blackmail attempted
- **What would you recommend?**

Framing Case: The True Tale of A, B, and C Aftermath

- Arbitration
- Plagiarism allegations
- Cease and desist

How do I choose a journal for submission?

Framing Case: Where Should We Stick This?

- Seasonal variation in rectal foreign body admissions?!
- What advice would you give the authors?

Look At Your Reference List

Are you citing particular subset of journals frequently?
Are your citations citing particular journals frequently?

Yes

Start with the highest impact factor journal in that frequent-citation list (Clarivate)—
Accepted?

Yes

Congratulations! Time to ask for a raise!

No

Take feedback received and improve manuscript, then select next tier of journals

Look At Your Reference List

Are you citing particular subset of journals frequently?
Are your citations citing particular journals frequently?

No

Reach out to editors at several journals from your list and ask them if they'd be interested in your manuscript topic

Yes

Submit to journal with interested editor – Accepted?

No

Submit to lower-tier but PubMed Indexed general medical journal – Accepted?

No

Yes

Congratulations! Time to ask for a raise!

Framing Case Revisited: Where Should We Stick This?

Research Letter

Seasonal Variation of Rectal Foreign Bodies: Data from Nationwide Inpatient Sample

Ranjan Pathak, Paras Karmacharya, Richard L. Alweis

Department of Internal Medicine, Reading Health System, West Reading, Pennsylvania, USA

Abstract

Background: Seasonality is noted in various aspects of human behavior and functioning which have led to an increasing interest in their seasonality in the recent years. **Aims:** We aimed to examine the seasonal variation in the incidence of rectal foreign bodies in the US using a large inpatient database. **Methods:** We used the Nationwide Inpatient Sample database to identify patients aged ≥18 years admitted with a primary diagnosis of the rectal foreign body from 2009 to 2011. We used the Ederer's regression and estimation of cyclic trend method to study the seasonal variation of the incidence of rectal foreign body and *F*-test to compare the seasonal incidences. **Results:** A total of 1339 hospitalizations with primary diagnosis of the rectal foreign body were reported from 2009 to 2011. The peak incidence of rectal foreign bodies was seen in October (peak, low ratio 1.28, 95% confidence interval 1.23-1.32). **Conclusions:** Data on seasonal variation of rectal foreign bodies are extremely limited. Further studies would be required to verify whether our findings of a higher incidence in the fall season are reflective of some changes in the length of the days, climate, dog-walks crick, or decreased social intercourse at this time of the year. High suspicion at this time of the year may help promptly diagnose and avoid unnecessary investigations.

Keywords: Nationwide Inpatient Sample, rectal foreign body, seasonal variation

Address for correspondence: Dr. Paras Karmacharya, Reading Health System, 477 Division and Spruce Street, West Reading, Pennsylvania 19380, USA. E-mail: paraskarmacharya@gmail.com

Introduction

Seasonality is noted in various aspects of human behavior and functioning which have led to an increasing interest in their seasonality in the recent years. Rectal foreign body insertion has been extensively described in the literature, with the earliest description dating back as long as the sixteenth century (Haft and Benjamin) and earliest case report published in 1939. The incidence is increasing¹ with up to 589 cases reported in the literature, and many more unreported cases presenting to the hospital.² A variety of human behaviors such as sexual gratification (most common), criminal assault or accident, and self-treatment of anorectal disease have been implicated.²⁻⁵ Various theories on the effect

of climatic changes including changes in air pressure, temperature, solar activity, and humidity have been postulated to affect human behavior and disorders relating to these.⁶ We aimed to examine the seasonal variation in the incidence of rectal foreign bodies in the US using a large inpatient database.

Methods

We used the Nationwide Inpatient Sample (NIS) database to identify patients aged ≥18 years admitted with the primary diagnosis of the rectal foreign body (International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision, Clinical Modification code 937) from 2009

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For reprints contact: rajr@rhhhs.com

How to cite this article: Pathak R, Karmacharya P, Alweis RL. Seasonal variation of rectal foreign bodies: Data from nationwide inpatient sample. *North Am J Med Sci*. 2016 Apr;8(4):191-3.

Remember:

Everything you do is publishable if you can just find the right angle

Most Open Access journals have low impact factors, but allow you to widely distribute your work

A few words about open access

Open Access Journals

- Open access (OA) = “free” and “unrestricted” online access
- Government funded research mandate
- OA low overhead cost, high profit margin
- Multiple variations on model

Adapted from:

- 1) <https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.342.6154.60>; accessed 9/3/2021
- 2) Grouse L. Open access medical publications. J Thorac Dis. 2014;6(6):E133-E136. doi:10.3978/j.issn.2072-1439.2014.03.21
- 3) White RKA, Angelo A, Fitchett D, Fraser M, Hayes L, Howie J, Richardson E, White B. Only two out of five articles by New Zealand researchers are free-to-access: a multiple API study of access, citations, cost of Article Processing Charges (APC), and the potential to increase the proportion of open access. PeerJ. 2021 May 26;9:e11417.

Open Access Journals

AM= Accepted manuscript

VOR = Version of record

APC = Article Processing Charge

	Green	Gold	Hybrid	Platinum
Article Release	After embargo period and only to subscribers	Immediately	Immediately in print, after embargo on line	Immediately
Version Released	Usually AM after peer review but before copyediting and typesetting	Final published VOR, after copyediting and typesetting	Final published VOR, after copyediting and typesetting in print, AM online	Final published VOR, after copyediting and typesetting
How are publication costs met?	APC	APC	Free for print, APC for online	No charge to authors

How do I know if a journal is predatory open access?

Framing Case: Dear Doctor

Dear Dr. Richard Alweis,

Greetings for the day!

We are delighted to invite Eminent Scientists, Academicians and Researchers to submit their original research articles, etc. for publication Journal of Neurology Research Reviews & Reports. For an effective scientific reading and public view with an aim to reach the world wide researchers and practitioners.

We are advanced in presenting visual PPTs and Video articles in online which can be more accessible to globally

We would appreciate receiving your submission on or before August 25th, 2021.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Best regards,

Reinaud J

Journal of Neurology Research Reviews & Reports

Principles of Transparency and Best Practice in Scholarly Publishing

- Collaboration to clarify principles for “respectable” journals
 - International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (IMJE)
 - Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE)
 - Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)
 - Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association (OASPA)
 - World Association of Medical Editors (WAME)

- 1) Website
- 2) Name of Journal
- 3) Peer Review Process
- 4) Ownership and Management
- 5) Governing Body
- 6) Editorial team/contact information
- 7) Copyright and licensing
- 8) Author fees

- 9) Process for identification of and dealing with allegations of research misconduct
- 10) Publication Ethics
- 11) Publishing Schedule
- 12) Access
- 13) Archiving
- 14) Revenue sources
- 15) Advertising
- 16) Direct marketing

Signs That Something Isn't on the Up and Up (1)

- Website hijacking
- Name of journal suspiciously similar to another journal (differing by just a letter or small word)
- Editorial Board not clearly listed
- Editorial Board seems sketchy (ignore sketchiness of today's speaker)

Table 1. Authentic and Hijacked Websites of Selected Medical Journals

Legitimate journal title (ISSN)	Authentic journal website	Hijacked journal of the counterfeit website	Impact factor (2014)
<i>Emergencias</i> (1137-6821)	http://emergencias.portalsemes.org	http://www.sanidadediciones.com	2.895
<i>The Journal of the American Medical Association</i> (print: 0098-7484; online: 1538-3598)	http://jama.jamanetwork.com	http://www.ama-journal.org	35.289
<i>Vitae</i> (0121-4004)	http://aprendeonline.udea.edu.co/revistas/index.php/vitae/index	http://www.vitae-udea.org	N/A ¹
<i>Terapevticheskii Arkhiv</i> (0040-3660)	N/A ²	http://www.terapevticheskiiarkhiv.org	0.049
<i>Kardiologiya</i> (0022-9040)	http://ores.su/en/journals/kardiologiya/	http://www.kardiologiyajournal.org	0.117
<i>Revue Scientifique et Technique</i> (0253-1933)	N/A ²	http://www.rstoide.org	0.910

N/A¹ This journal does not have an Impact Factor; N/A² This journal does not have a website.

Signs That Something Isn't on the Up and Up (2)

- “Cold call” emails with poor language skills:

Dear Dr. Richard Alweis,

Greetings for the day!

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Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Best regards,

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Journal of Neurology Research Reviews & Reports



I've been promoted! Hello,
Nobel Committee!

Signs That Something Isn't on the Up and Up (3)

Invitation to submit literally anything(!)

From: Department of Complementary & Alternative Therapy

Subject: Commence a New Issue

Time: Sun 4:52 AM (8-15-2021)

Dear Professor,

Greetings from OAJBS!

OAJBS is very delighted to share with you that, we stepped into another achievement i.e., we are fruitfully completed Volume 4 Issue 3 of our Journal. Now, we would like to commence a new issue with your presence, so can we expect your workpiece?

We modestly request you to send any type of article based on your research interest.

We truly appreciate your attention!

Regards,

Jessica Williams

ISSN: 2690-487X | Impact factor: 0.586

Open Access Journal of Biomedical Science (OAJBS)

Evidence of Google Translate utilization

Fictional Impact Factor

Any type of article in any area?

That's technically an English word, but not one that we normally use

Signs That Something Isn't on the Up and Up (4)

- Google Maps indicates their corporate address is a private home or in a mall:

Sincerely,
Nichole Robinson
Editorial Coordinator
Acquaint Publications LLC
16192 Coastal Highway
Sussex, Lewes, 19958

We publish your
research and sell
hot tubs! So, we
are totally legit



Signs That Something Isn't on the Up and Up (5)

This presentation has an FE (Frank Edwards) Impact Factor of 11.32

- Bragging about being indexed on Google, Research Gate, etc. as well as non-existent or self-created indexing services

High Visibility: Dental Research and Oral Health indexed or abstracted in [Google Scholar](#), [Semantic Scholar](#), [CrossRef](#), [WorldCat](#), [ResearchGate](#), [Academic Keys](#), [DRJI](#), [Microsoft Academic](#), [Academia.edu](#), [OpenAIRE](#), [Scribd](#), [Baidu Scholar](#)

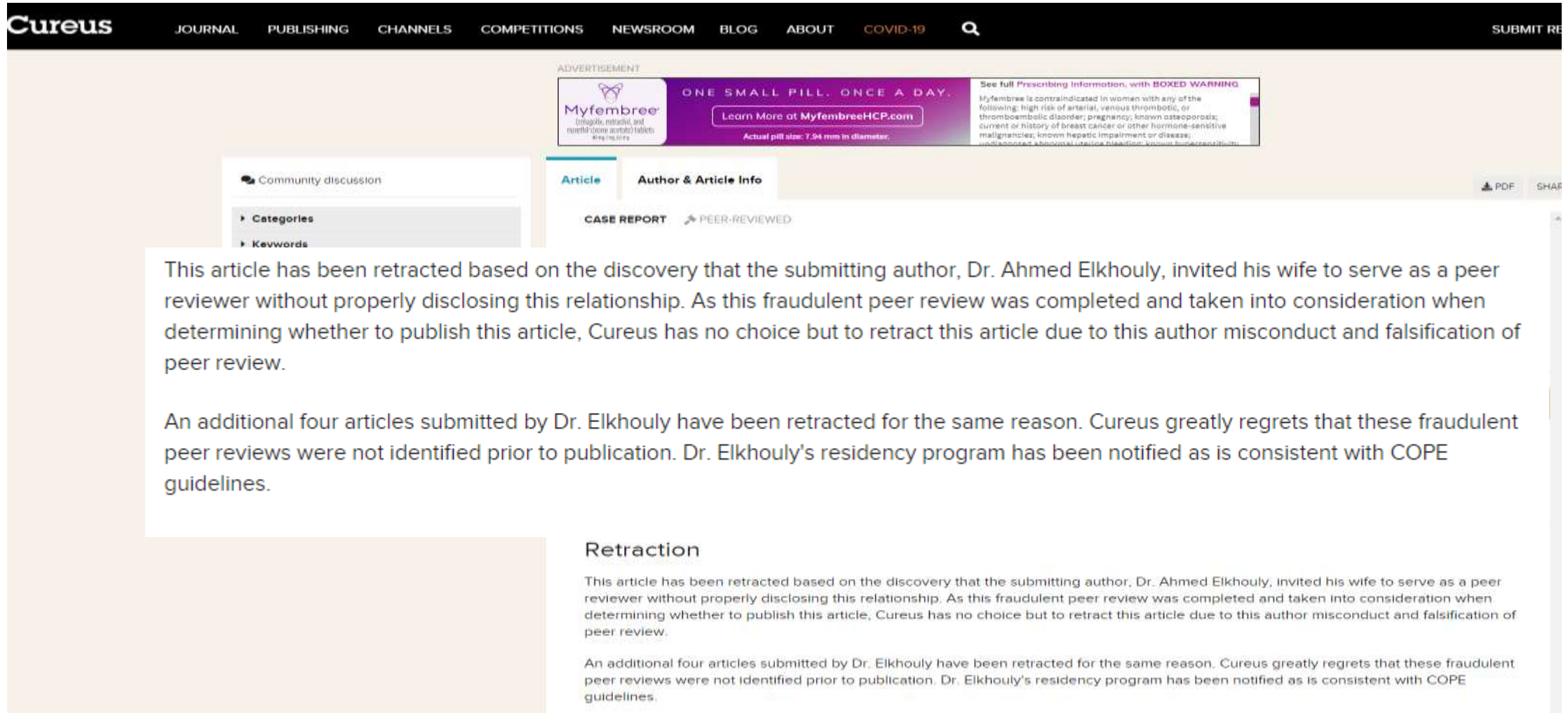
- Invite you to submit to a journal that has little or nothing to do with what you do:
 - “We appreciate your scientific activities; we feel honored to invite you to submit the papers for the upcoming issue August 2021 Edition. JDOP is an open access peer reviewed journal with an aim to publish latest research findings in the field of **dentistry**.”

Signs That Something Isn't on the Up and Up (6)

- Promise rapid turnaround and quick peer review.
 - Euphemism for no peer review and they publish anything, as long as you pay a fee.
- The following paper was accepted by the *International Journal of Advanced Computer Technology*, with an anonymous peer reviewer rating the article as excellent, and another calling it ground-breaking.

The following slide contains profanity. If you object, I will let you know when the slide is no longer on the screen

Even Real Journals Make Mistakes....



The image shows a screenshot of a Cureus journal article page. At the top, the Cureus logo is on the left, and navigation links for JOURNAL, PUBLISHING, CHANNELS, COMPETITIONS, NEWSROOM, BLOG, ABOUT, and COVID-19 are in the center. A search icon and a SUBMIT RE link are on the right. Below the navigation is an advertisement for Myfembree, featuring the text "ONE SMALL PILL. ONCE A DAY." and "Learn More at MyfembreeHCP.com". The article title is "Article" and the author information is "Author & Article Info". The article is labeled as a "CASE REPORT" and "PEER-REVIEWED". A retraction notice is overlaid on the page, stating: "This article has been retracted based on the discovery that the submitting author, Dr. Ahmed Elkhoully, invited his wife to serve as a peer reviewer without properly disclosing this relationship. As this fraudulent peer review was completed and taken into consideration when determining whether to publish this article, Cureus has no choice but to retract this article due to this author misconduct and falsification of peer review. An additional four articles submitted by Dr. Elkhoully have been retracted for the same reason. Cureus greatly regrets that these fraudulent peer reviews were not identified prior to publication. Dr. Elkhoully's residency program has been notified as is consistent with COPE guidelines." Below the notice, the word "Retraction" is followed by the same text as the notice.

Community discussion

Categories

Keywords

ADVERTISMENT

Myfembree
(mefenamic acid, estradiol, and norethindrone acetate) tablets
See full Prescribing Information, with **BOXED WARNING**

ONE SMALL PILL. ONCE A DAY.

Learn More at MyfembreeHCP.com

Actual pill size: 7.94 mm in diameter.

See full Prescribing Information, with **BOXED WARNING**
Myfembree is contraindicated in women with any of the following: high risk of arterial, venous thrombotic, or thromboembolic disorder; pregnancy; known osteoporosis; current or history of breast cancer or other hormone-sensitive malignancies; known hepatic impairment or disease; undiagnosed abnormal uterine bleeding; known hypotension.

Article

Author & Article Info

CASE REPORT

PEER-REVIEWED

PDF

SHARE

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How does a journal become “real?”

The Journey (1)

- Find a reputable publishing house
 - Do they have a stable of PubMed-indexed journals?
 - Do they have clearly posted guidelines?
 - Do they have clearly articulated MVV?
- Interview each other to ensure fit
- Sign contract

The Journey (2)

- Establish editorial team, including those with backgrounds in appropriate subject areas
 - Clearly indicate who they are and their area of content expertise on website
- Place on website editorial policies, style guide
- Publish first issue (you actually need to do this before next steps)

The Journey (3)

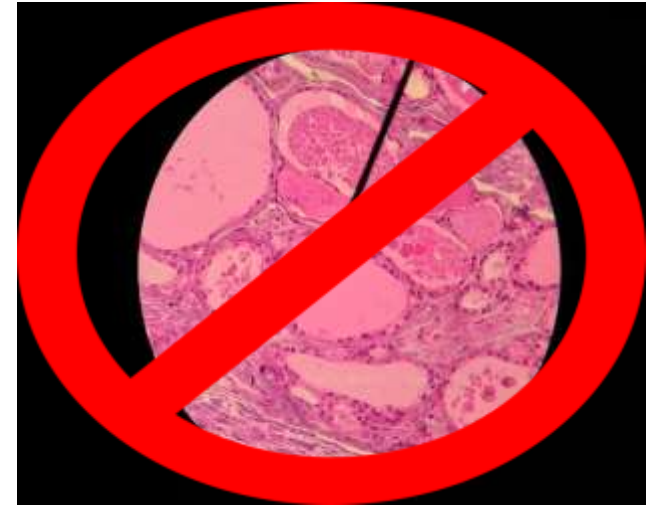
- PHASE 1- ISSN Intake and Registration
 - An International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) is an eight-digit serial number used to uniquely identify a serial publication
- PHASE 2- CrossRef registration/membership
 - Crossref is an official Digital Object Identifier (DOI) Registration Agency of the International DOI Foundation.
 - The DOI system provides a technical and social infrastructure for the registration and use of persistent interoperable identifiers, called DOIs, for use on digital networks.

The Journey (4)

- PHASE 3- Similarity Check → after first 2 phases complete, you can get anti-plagiarism software license (iThenticate commonly used in medical publishing)
- PHASE 4- DOAJ application and Index Review
- PHASE 5- PubMed indexing application (40 manuscripts and 2 years of publishing minimum)
- PHASE 6 – Listing in Emerging Sciences Citations Index (after a certain number of citations)
- PHASE 7 – Clarivate (formerly Thomson-Reuters) calculates Impact Factor

Returning to Framing Case: Something's Rotten in the State of Pennsylvania

- Resident at Hospital A writing case report
- Pathology was a send out to Hospital B
- Hospital B pathologist asked to send photo of slide to include in case report
- Pathologist refuses to release slide without being listed as an author on the case report
- Knowing what you now know, what would you recommend resident and faculty at Hospital A do in this situation?



Summary

- Editors/reviewers have poorly promulgated but established standards for what they generally want to see in a manuscript
- There are well-established rules for determining authorship
- There is an art to choosing where to submit your manuscript, but be prepared for many rejections
- Watch out for predatory open access journals
- Journals that have undergone the official process will have ISSNs, DOIs, and well established policies around ownership of copyright, article processing charges, etc.
- If I can do it, so can you!

Thank you!

Any questions?

10-11-21 Email: "Disclaimer: This is not a spam message and has been sent to you because of your eminence in the province. If, however, you do not want to receive any email in future from **Internal Medicine 2021** reply us with the subject "**remove /unsubscribe**". We concern for your concealment."

Me, too, Comrade.
I'm a spy.