Predatory Journals and Publishers

Karen M. Young, VMD, PhD
University of Wisconsin–Madison
Veterinary Clinical Pathology, Editor Emerita
Member, Literature Selection Technical Review Committee, National Library of Medicine, NIH
Open-Access Journals

Accompanied by a rise in predatory publishers and journals
Predatory Journals

Journals that present a legitimate face for an illegitimate publication process
Predatory Journals

Criteria to examine:

Editor and Staff
Are editors named?
What are their academic credentials?
Diversity – geographic, scientific, gender?
Are listed editors aware of their listing?

Business Management
Lack of transparency
Undisclosed fees
No practice for digital preservation
Predatory Journals

Poor Journal Standards/Practices
Bona fide peer reviews not conducted
Author guidelines copied verbatim from other publishers

Integrity
Name of journal doesn’t reflect its mission or origin
(Canadian Journal of...)
Advertises fake impact factor
False indexing claims
Republishes articles without credit
Beware the Predatory Journal

Who’s Afraid of Peer Review?

Bohannon J, *Science* 2103;343:60-65

A spoof paper concocted by *Science* reveals little or no scrutiny at many open-access journals.

Accepted by > 157 of the 300 journals.
Tangled web

John Bohannon Science 2013;342:60-65

Published by AAAS
International Journal of Innovative Research in Medical Science

http://ijirms.in/

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International Journal of Innovative Research in Medical Science (IJIRMS) is a registered independent Organization, delivering supports and services to education professionals and researchers around the world, especially those from the developing countries to publish high quality original research papers.

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International Journal of Innovative Research in Medical Science

Submit your article to online if any difficulty you can also submit:- editor@ijirms.in
International Journal of Innovative Research in Medical Science (IJIRMS) is a registered independent Organization and services to education professionals and researchers around the world, especially those from the developing high quality original research papers.

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ORIGINAL RESEARCH ARTICLE

Awareness of “predatory” open-access journals among prospective veterinary and medical authors attending scientific writing workshops

Mary M. Christopher¹* and Karen M. Young²

¹Department of Pathology, Microbiology, and Immunology, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of California-Davis, Davis, CA, USA
²Department of Pathobiological Sciences, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI, USA

Authors face many choices when selecting a journal for publication. Prospective authors, especially trainees, may be unaware of “predatory” online journals or how to differentiate them from legitimate journals. In this study, we assessed awareness of open-access and predatory journals among prospective authors attending scientific writing workshops; our long-term goal was to inform educational goals for the workshops. We surveyed participants of writing workshops at veterinary and medical schools and an international conference over a 1-year period. The survey included 14 statements for respondents to indicate agreement level on a Likert-like scale and four questions on awareness of resources about
Awareness of Predatory Journals

23% aware of term “predatory journal”

~5% aware of Beall’s list

~65% defined predatory journals based on some poor but not predatory practices; some misunderstood the term completely

On the rise

Mentors:
Help novice writers to -

distinguish between legitimate and illegitimate journals
select the best journal for their work
Beware the Predatory Journal

Be sure the publisher is reputable
  Full verifiable contact information, including address?
  Peer review process: described?
  Member of the Directory of Open Access Journals or similar association?
  Are articles assigned a DOI?

Investigate the journal
  Assess quality of published articles
  Where is journal indexed?
  Is journal associated with a scholarly society?
  Who is the Editor?
  Editorial Board: recognized experts/affiliations?
Beware the Predatory Journal

Beall’s list:


as of April, 2016:

989 publishers (was 242 in 2013)
999 journals (was 126 in 2013)

However:

One person’s crusade, not without controversy, has disappeared from the Web
Frontiers in Veterinary Science
ISSN: 2297-1769 (Online)
http://www.frontiersin.org/Veterinary_Science
Blind peer review
Subject: Agriculture: Animal culture: Veterinary medicine
Date added to DOAJ: 25 Mar 2015

Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine
ISSN: 1939-1676 (Online)
Blind peer review
Subject: Agriculture: Animal culture: Veterinary medicine
Date added to DOAJ: 19 Nov 2015

Medwave
ISSN: 0717-6384 (Online)
http://www.medwave.cl
Peer review
Subject: Medicine: Medicine (General)
Date added to DOAJ: 15 Jan 2013

https://doaj.org/
Choose the right journal for your research

http://thinkchecksubmit.org/

Sharing research results with the world is key to the progress of your discipline and career. But with so many publications, how can you be sure you can trust a particular journal? Follow this check list to make sure you choose trusted journals for your research.
Are you submitting your research to a trusted journal? Is it the right journal for your work?

Use our check list to assess the journal

Only if you can answer ‘yes’ to the questions on our check list
If you can answer ‘yes’ to most or all of the questions on the list.

Complete the check list and submit your article only if you are happy you can answer ‘yes’ to most or all of the questions.

- You need to be confident your chosen journal will have a suitable profile among your peers to enhance your reputation and your chance of gaining citations.

- Publishing in the right journal for your research will raise your professional profile, and help you progress in your career.

- Your paper should be indexed or archived and be easily discoverable.

- You should expect a professional publishing experience where your work is reviewed and edited.

- Only then should you submit your article.
Addressing Faculty Publishing Concerns with Open Access Journal Quality Indicators

Sarah Beaubien, Max Eckard


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JLSC is a quarterly journal sponsored and published by Pacific University Library | ISSN 2162-3309 | http://jls-c-pub.org
Positive Indicators

- Scope of the journal is well-defined and clearly stated
- Journal’s primary audience is researchers/practitioners
- Editor, editorial board are recognized experts in the field
- Journal is affiliated with or sponsored by an established scholarly society or academic institution
- Articles are within the scope of the journal and meet the standards of the discipline
- Any fees or charges for publishing in the journal are easily found on the journal web site and clearly explained
- Articles have DOIs (Digital Object Identifier, e.g., doi:10.1111/j.1742-9544.2011.00054.x)
- Journal clearly indicates rights for use and re-use of content at article level (e.g., Creative Commons CC BY license)
- Journal has an ISSN (International Standard Serial Number, e.g., 1234-5678)
- Publisher is a member of Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association
- Journal is registered in UlrichsWeb, Global Serials Directory
- Journal is listed in the Directory of Open Access Journals
- Journal is included in subject databases and/or indexes

Negative Indicators

- Journal web site is difficult to locate or identify
- Publisher “About” information is absent on the journal’s web site
- Publisher direct marketing (i.e., spamming) or other advertising is obtrusive
- Instructions to authors information is not available
- Information on peer review and copyright is absent or unclear on the journal web site
- Journal scope statement is absent or extremely vague
- No information is provided about the publisher, or the information provided does not clearly indicate a relationship to a mission to disseminate research content
- Repeat lead authors in same issue
- Publisher has a negative reputation (e.g., documented examples in Chronicle of Higher Education, list-servs, etc.)
Potential predatory and legitimate biomedical journals: can you tell the difference? A cross-sectional comparison

Larissa Shamseer¹,², David Moher¹,², Onyi Maduekwe³, Lucy Turner⁴, Virginia Barbour⁵, Rebecca Burch⁶, Jocalyn Clark⁷, James Galipeau¹, Jason Roberts⁸ and Beverley J. Shea⁹
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Salient characteristics of potential predatory journals</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>The scope of interest includes non-biomedical subjects alongside biomedical topics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>The website contains spelling and grammar errors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Images are distorted/fuzzy, intended to look like something they are not, or which are unauthorized</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>The homepage language targets authors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>The Index Copernicus Value is promoted on the website</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Description of the manuscript handling process is lacking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Manuscripts are requested to be submitted via email</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Rapid publication is promised</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>There is no retraction policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Information on whether and how journal content will be digitally preserved is absent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>The Article processing/publication charge is very low (e.g., &lt; $150 USD)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Journals claiming to be open access either retain copyright of published research or fail to mention copyright</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>The contact email address is non-professional and non-journal affiliated (e.g., @gmail.com or @yahoo.com)</td>
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The Journal Blacklist

Specialists analyze over 60 behavioral indicators to keep the community aware of the growing threats and to keep academia protected from exploitative operations.

Everything you need to know about a journal

Access to our 11,000+ journal database includes journal details, contact information, citation metrics, submission and review guidelines, and more.

Check below for subscription details
Cabell's New Predatory Journal Blacklist: A Review

By RICK ANDERSON | JUL 25, 2017 | 60 COMMENTS

Rick Anderson

@LOOPTOPPER

Rick Anderson is Associate Dean for Collections and Scholarly Communication in the J. Willard Marriott Library at the University of Utah. He speaks and writes regularly on issues related to libraries, scholarly communication, and higher education, and has served as president of NASIG and of the Society for Scholarly Publishing.

View All Posts by Rick Anderson
“My overall assessment of the Cabell’s Blacklist is that it is a welcome development, and that it still needs quite a bit of work. To begin with the positives:

- The criteria for inclusion in the blacklist are clearly set out and publicly available.
- For each entry, date of last review is indicated, and an email hyperlink is provided that allows readers to contribute information about a journal.
- Each entry includes a link to Cabell’s appeal policy. Appeals are allowed once per journal per year, and instructions are included in the policy text.
- Wisely, ratings are given at the journal level, not the publisher level; thus, for example, the Open Science journal Advances in Biomedical Sciences is listed as having 5 violations of Cabell’s criteria, while the same publisher’s International Journal of Public Health Research has 6.
- For each entry, specifics of the violations are conveniently listed under criterion categories: thus, Acta Rheumatologica is dinged for violations in the categories of “Integrity” ( "The publisher hides or obscures relationships with for-profit partner companies"), “Website” (“Does not identify a physical address for the publisher or gives a fake address”) and “Business Practices” (“Emails from journals received by researchers who are clearly not in the field the journal covers”).”

Rick Anderson
“So what are the problems?

The most serious is that, as currently configured, Cabell’s Blacklist perpetuates the common problem of conflating low-quality journal publishing with deceptive or predatory publishing. In this case, the conflation happens because many of the blacklisting criteria Cabell’s applies are really quality criteria (“poor grammar and/or spelling,” “does not have a clearly stated peer review policy,” “no policy for digital preservation,” etc.) that can easily end up gathering fundamentally honest but less-competently-run journals into the same net as those journals that are actively trying to perpetrate a scam. Predatory and incompetent journals do often evince some of the same traits, but these traits don’t always indicate predatory intent. (However, the Cabell’s staff assures me that there is a behind-the-scenes scoring rubric that assigns different weights to different violations, and is designed to prevent merely new or low-quality journals from being tagged as predators and included in the blacklist.)”

Rick Anderson
Beall's list: Gone but not lost

24 JANUARY 2017 on Predatory publishers, Beall's list, Think check submit, research, Where to publish

Struggling to spot Predatory Publishers?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>T/F?</th>
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<tr>
<td>The publisher is a <a href="https://www.copemembership.org">COPE member</a> (ICMJE membership as well if medical titles), or of the STM Association, DOAJ, OASPA</td>
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<tr>
<td>The majority/all of the publisher's journals (or the journal in question) are indexed on services such as Web of Knowledge, Pubmed, PubmedCentral, Scopus etc.?</td>
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<tr>
<td>The publisher has policies or practices for digital preservation, meaning that if the journal ceases operations, all of the content disappears from the internet&quot; e.g. CLOCKSS, LOCKSS, PORTICO, (ArKiv, Rosetta, Arkivum)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>The publisher has published content to date</td>
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<tr>
<td>There is publicly available information on the publisher's review procedures?</td>
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<tr>
<td>When searching for the publisher name online - there are no concerning author or reviewer comments on online forums or similar about the publisher's procedures and practices?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Is the journal/publisher on QOAM and do their journals have a high quality score <a href="http://www.qoam.eu">http://www.qoam.eu</a>?</td>
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<tr>
<td>The publisher provides sufficient information about author fees</td>
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<tr>
<td>The publisher provides comprehensive copyediting and proofreading services to published submissions?</td>
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<tr>
<td>The publisher lists sufficient contact information, including contact information that clearly states the headquarter location</td>
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<tr>
<td>The publisher does not promise unusually quick peer review.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Journal titles are not copied or mimicked excessively from other publishers.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Journals are not excessively broad/general in scope.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The editorial board contains prominent members of the research community</td>
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<tr>
<td>The publisher's offices use bespoke email addresses with the publishers' domain name (i.e. not email addresses that end in .gmail.com, yahoo.com, or some other free email supplier)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The publisher's website is well maintained (no dead links, prominent misspellings and grammatical errors on the website)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The publisher has a published article retraction policy/or retracts articles openly where relevant with formal statements?</td>
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<tr>
<td>The publisher publishes corrections or clarifications (and has a policy for these issues)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The publisher use standard identifiers such as ISSNs or DOIs properly</td>
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We’re aware that our checklist can discriminate against new publishers and journals. Where this is the case, we work with them as they establish themselves and reviewers begin to verify reviews on our system. This helps to develop a record of reputable performance before making any decisions to partner.

**Building on Beall**

We hope this helps. Don’t forget we go through this process for all our partners, and provide information on review policy, verified review volume, and reviewer endorsements on our Journals List page.

We see our Journals List as a positive and agile alternative to Beall’s list. We used his idea - his goal - as a starting point and built on it. Now you can too.
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Journal of Aquaculture & Marine Biology (JAMB) - ISSN: 2378-3184
Advances in Plants & Agriculture Research (APAR) - ISSN: 2373-6402
Horticulture International Journal (HIJ)
Plant Science Open Access Journal (PSOAJ)
Journal of Agricultural Economics: Open Access (JAEOA)

NIH Funded & Indexed Articles

Translational Collaboration Platforms.
PubMed ID: 26799845

The Use of Low Level Laser Therapy (LLLT) For Musculoskeletal Pain
PubMed ID: 26858986

Clinical Trial Laboratory Data Nested With in Subject: Components of Variance, Sample Size and Cost.
PubMed ID: 26457336

Why is Preterm Birth Stubbornly Higher in African-Americans?
PubMed ID: 25905109

Association of Masseter Muscle Activities during Awake and Sleep Periods with Self-Reported Anxiety, Depression, and Somatic Symptoms
PubMed ID: 26709387

XGlycScan: An Open-source Software For N-linked Glycosite Assignment,
PubMed ID: 25346946
Clinical Journals

Journal of Liver Research, Disorders & Therapy (JLRDT) - ISSN: 2471-1381
International Clinical Pathology Journal (ICPJL) - ISSN: 2471-0016
International Journal of Vaccines & Vaccination (IJVV) - ISSN: 2470-9980
MOJ Toxicology (MOJT) - ISSN: 2379-6294
Journal of Nanomedicine Research (JNMR) - ISSN: 2377-4282
Journal of Human Virology & Retrovirology (JHVRV) - ISSN: 2373-6453
Journal of Anesthesia & Critical Care: Open Access (JACCOA) - ISSN: 2373-6437
MOJ Immunology (MOJI) - ISSN: 2373-4442
Journal of Microbiology & Experimentation (JMEN) - ISSN: 2373-437X
MOJ Bioequivalence & Bioavailability (MOJB) - ISSN 2573-2951
International Journal of Radiology & Radiation Therapy (IJRRT)
Advances in Tissue Engineering & Regenerative Medicine Open access (ATROA) - ISSN: 2572-8490
International Journal of Molecular Biology: Open Access (IJMBOA) - ISSN 2573-2889
Open Access Journal of Thyroid Research & Therapy (OAJTRT)
International Journal of Acoustics and Ultrasonics (IJAU)
Medical Journals

Endocrinology & Metabolism International Journal (EMI) - ISSN: 2473-0815
MOJ Anatomy & Physiology (MOJAP) - ISSN: 2471-139X
Hematology & Transfusion International Journal (HTIJ) - ISSN: 2469-2778
MOJ Clinical & Medical Case Reports (MOJCR) - ISSN: 2381-179X
Journal of Otolaryngology-ENT Research (JOENTR) - ISSN: 2379-6359
MOJ Surgery (MOJS) - ISSN: 2379-6162
Urology & Nephrology Open Access Journal (UNOAJ) - ISSN: 2378-3176
Journal of Dairy, Veterinary & Animal Research (JDVAR) - ISSN: 2377-4312
Obstetrics & Gynecology International Journal (OGIJ) - ISSN: 2377-4304
Advances in Ophthalmology & Visual System (AOVS) - ISSN: 2377-4290
Journal of Lung, Pulmonary & Respiratory Research (JLPRR) - ISSN: 2376-0060
Journal of Diabetes, Metabolic Disorders & Control (JDMDC) - ISSN: 2374-6947
MOJ Orthopedics & Rheumatology (MOJOR) - ISSN: 2374-6939
Journal of Neurology & Stroke (JNSK) - ISSN: 2373-6410
Gastroenterology & Hepatology: Open Access (GHOA) - ISSN: 2373-6372
Journal of Cancer Prevention & Current Research (JCPCR) - ISSN: 2373-633X
Journal of Pediatrics & Neonatal Care (JPNC) - ISSN: 2373-4426
Journal of Cardiology & Current Research (JCCR) - ISSN: 2373-4396
Journal of Dental Health, Oral Disorders & Therapy (JDHODT) - ISSN: 2373-4345
Journal of Dermatology & Cosmetology (JDC)
MOJ Gerontology & Geriatrics (MOJGG)
MOJ Lymphology & Phlebology (MOJLP)
Journal of Pancreatic Research, Disorders & Therapy (JPRDT)
Reproductive System & Sexual Disorders International Journal (RSSDI)

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Overview

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Company Details

Founded: February 11, 2014
Aliases: Medcrame
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Employees: 51 - 100 | None found in Crunchbase

Among the most ignored niche of writing on the web lie scientific papers. Among the options available for enthusiasts and students alike lie several of the badly-researched, unedited or unreviewed papers. Knowledge, more so in the science niche, needs to be edited and reviewed. More so if the end result is going to be in some research, or some student is going to make notes and take references from that paper. For all such problems, there's a solution named Medcrame online publisher.

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Case presentation

A 37-year-old white male was in a large suburban mall parking garage and was unable to locate his car. After more than an hour of walking up and down flights of stairs and through row after row of cars, searching fruitlessly for his own car, he felt a powerful urge to urinate. With no restroom available in the garage, and knowing that he suffers from uromycosis, he feared that if he did not urinate immediately he would develop uromycosis poisoning. Because of his medically diagnosed condition, and because of the progressive policies of the city in which he resided (New York City), he had been issued a public urination pass, which shielded him from legal prosecution under public sanitation ordinances if, by medical necessity, he urinated in public and was caught and detained and issued a citation by civil authorities.

That day, though, he was not carrying his pass on his person; his younger male sibling had absconded with it. Nor, in fact, was
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To my surprise, a representative at Urology & Nephrology Open Access Journal wrote to say that my manuscript had been sent out for peer review. Three days later, it was conditionally accepted. I was asked to make minor revisions—including trimming the abstract and including the phony patient’s lab results—and pay a “nominal” $799 fee, plus tax.

Continuing to dupe the publication, I did all that was asked—except remit payment—and, on March 31, my report was published on the journal’s website (PDF). I have no intention of paying the requested fee.

A simple Google search for “urocytisis” or “Martin van Nostrand” returns thousands of references to Seinfeld. Checking just one of the “papers” I included in the manuscript’s reference section, the editors or reviewers could easily have determined it was fabricated.

Why did the journal publish a report so easily identifiable as fake? I’ll leave that to the publication to explain.

John H. McCool
Uromycosis Poisoning Results in Lower Urinary Tract Infection and Acute Renal Failure: Case Report

Abstract

Uromycosis is a rare but serious condition that affects over 2,000 mostly adult men and women in the United States each year. Described simply, it is caused by prolonged failure to evacuate the contents of the bladder and can result in a serious infection of the lower urinary tract known as “uromycosis poisoning,” which, if untreated, can cause acute renal failure and has an associated high mortality. Because people with uromycosis often cannot hold in their urine and feel they must-and, at times, actually must-urinate in inappropriate places, sometimes running afoul of local public sanitation ordinances, they can feel great personal shame and place themselves in legal jeopardy, through no fault of their own. We report the case of a 37-year-old male who suffers from uromycosis, was prevented from urinating in public, was admitted to the emergency room with uromycosis poisoning, was misdiagnosed, and was referred to our institution for treatment.

Volume 4 Issue 3 - 2017

Martin van Nostrand1*, Jay Riemenschneider1 and Leonard Nicodemo2
1Department of Interventional Urology, Arthur Vandelay Urological Research Institute, USA
2Department of Psychology, Weill Cornell Medical College, USA

*Corresponding author: Martin van Nostrand, Arthur Vandelay Urological Research Institute, 129 W 81st Street, New York, NY 10024, USA, Email: martinvannostrand1949@gmail.com

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Beware the Predatory Journal

Mentors:
Help novice writers to -
- distinguish between legitimate and illegitimate journals
- select the best journal for their work