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Coffee Lectures

Be aware: predatory publishers

Dr. Rainer Rees

02 November 2022, Webinar via Zoom

New knowledge in 10 minutes:
- You are aware of the problems of predatory publishing.
- You know criteria to recognize predatory publishers and journals.

Scale of the problem

https://www.timeshighereducation.com/news/infographic-journals-and-publishers-setting-sights-on-the-unwary

https://doi.org/10.1038/549023a

Definition: What are we talking about?

- Definition: “Predatory journals and publishers are entities that **prioritize self-interest at the expense of scholarship** and are characterized by **false or misleading information**, deviation from **best editorial and publication practices**, a **lack of transparency**, and/or the use of **aggressive and indiscriminate solicitation practices**.” Grudniewicz, A. (*et al.*), Nature 576, 210-212 (2019) 10.1038/d41586-019-03759-y

- Best practice principles: https://doi.org/10.24318/cope.2019.1.12

- **Not included**
  - Intent to deceive
  - Journal quality
  - Quality of peer review:
    - no or negligent peer review is often a prominent feature of predatory journals
    - currently impossible to assess
    - lack of transparent → legitimate journals → open peer review, open data

Categorization

Grudniewicz, A. (*et al.*), Nature 576, 210-212 (2019) 10.1038/d41586-019-03759-y

Kyle Siler (2020), https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/impactofsocialsciences/2020/05/13/there-is-no-black-and-white-definition-of-predatory-publishing/

https://www.imedpub.com/asian-journal-of-plant-science-research/editors.php

Asian Journal of Plant Science & Research

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17+ Million Readerbase

Google Scholar citation report

Citations : 8158

Asian Journal of Plant Science & Research received 8158 citations as per Google Scholar report

Journal h-index : 40
Journal cite score : 37.71
Journal impact factor : 26.20
Average acceptance to publication time (5-7 days)
Average article processing time (30-45 days)

About Asian Journal of Plant Science & Research

Journal Impact Factor: 0.92*; 4.64 (5-Year Impact Factor)

Asian Journal of Plant Science & Research (AJPSKY) provides a podium for researchers all over the world for the publication of scientific research findings in Plant Science field. The journal is a peer-reviewed, open access, online journal, publishes original research papers and review articles in all aspects of plant science. The main aim of this journal is to provide a platform to botanists, researchers, scientists, scholars and academicians to publish their research work and update the recent advances.

The Journal covers following subject fields but, not limited to: Agronomy (Grains, Forages, Industrial and Alternative Crops), Biochemistry, Bioinformatics, Biophysics, Biotechnology, Cell biology, Cellular and Developmental Biology, Ecology (including Development, Growth Regulation), Entomology, Ethnobotany, Ethnopharmacology, Ethnoveterinary, Evolutionary Biology, Genetics and Genomics, Horticulture (fruits, vegetables, ornamentals), Microbiology, Molecular biology, Morphology, Nutrition, Pathogen Resistance, Pest Management (Entomology, Plant Pathology, Weed Science), Photosynthesis, Phylogeny, Hylogeography, Physiology, Phytochemistry, Plant Breeding, Plant Genetics, Plant Pathology, Plant Production Systems, Population genetics, Signal Transduction, Stress Physiology, Symbiosis (especially Mycorrhizae and Rhizobia), Systems Biology, Taxonomy, Water Relations and Gas exchange, Weed Science and all other related areas.

iMedPub uses Online Review and Editorial Tracking System for quality review process. Authors can submit their manuscripts and track their progress through the Editorial Tracking System. Reviewers can download manuscripts and submit their opinions. Editors can manage the whole submission/review/revise/publish process. Publishers can see what manuscripts are in the pipeline awaiting publication. E-mail will be sent automatically to concerned persons when significant events occur.

Authors may **submit their manuscript Online at** www.imedpub.com/submissions/asian-plant-science-research.html or via e-mail to

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- China National Knowledge Infrastructure (CNKI)
- Directory of Research Journal Indexing (DRJI)
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*2019 Journal Impact Factor was established by dividing the number of articles published in 2017 and 2018 with the number of times they are cited in 2019 based on Google Scholar Citation Index database. If 'X' is the total number of articles published in 2017 and 2018, and 'Y' is the number of times these articles were cited in indexed journals during 2019 then, impact factor = Y/X

Example: Omics

- Included on Beal's list, not in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)
- Well know for their «soliciting» mailings
- 1st academic publisher to be sued by the U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC) for deceptive practices → judgement of over US$50 million.

Source: https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/news/press-releases/2017/11/ftc-halts-deceptive-practices-academic-journal-publishers, 02.11.2022

https://twitter.com/fake_journals/status/1243874238492106752 02.11.2022

Oncotarget

ONLINE ISSN: 1949-2553

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Oncotarget (a primarily oncology-focused, peer-reviewed, open access, weekly journal) aims to maximize research impact through insightful peer-review; eliminate borders between specialties by linking different fields of oncology, cancer research and biomedical sciences; and foster application of basic and clinical science.

Its scope is unique. The term "oncotarget" encompasses all molecules, pathways, cellular functions, cell types, and even tissues that can be viewed as targets relevant to cancer as well as other diseases. **The term was introduced in the inaugural Editorial** Introducing OncoTarget.

Spotlight

During a short history of Oncotarget and Oncoscience many members of these journals have become members of the National Academy of Sciences USA, won Lasker, Nobel and other prestigious awards.

Oncotarget is indexed/archived on PubMed and PMC.

All volumes (1-10) of Oncotarget are available on PubMed.
Volume 11 (2020) issues (1-10) are now on PubMed.

As stated by MEDLINE reviewers on 6/22/2017,
"This journal continues to play a major role in the publication of important basic science research papers. Editorial practices are consistently high. Ethical guidelines are consistently followed. This is an important research journal for the field."

Cision PR Newswire.

Impact factor (IF) Web of Science (Clarivate Analytics)

Year	IF	Total Cites
2016	5.168	30241
2015	5.008	10452
2014	6.359	3908
2013	6.627	2217
2012	6.636	1450
2011	4.784	493

Web of Science Update »

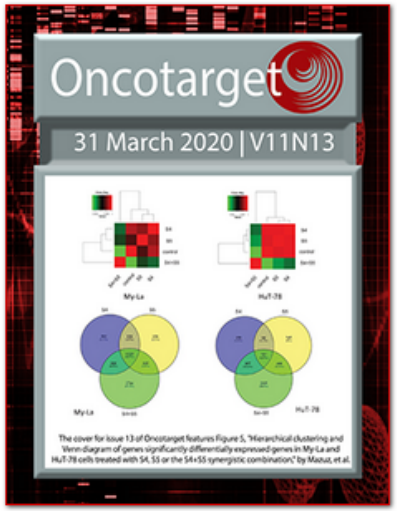
Scopus/SJR ranking: 2011-ongoing: Q1 (highest rank). All years Q1 in Medicine and Oncology (subject area).

***Oncotarget* ranks number 1 for Total Documents (2015-2018) among** all journals in Oncology.

News: (June 2019), Scopus has released its latest 2018 **ratings**. Oncotarget is in Q1 (highest rank) again. Furthermore, Oncotarget ranks No. 1 for total documents (2018) in Oncology.

Andrew V. Schally, a member of the Editorial Board of Oncotarget, a Nobel

Current Issue



Featured Articles

Featured articles by **DR Lowy**, the acting director of the NCI (2015-2017), and **A. Levine**:
DLC1 is the principal biologically-relevant down-regulated DLC family member in several cancers. Wang D, Qian X, Rajaram M, Durkin ME, Lowy DR. Oncotarget. 2016 Jul 19;7(29):45144-45157.
Dynamic changes during the treatment of pancreatic cancer. Wolff RA et al. Oncotarget. 2018; 9(19): 14764-14790.

Impact Journals, LLC, www.impactjournals.com, meets the Wellcome Trust Publisher Requirements, and is now a member of the Wellcome Trust List of Compliant Publishers

Interviews with outstanding authors

https://www.oncotarget.com/

Example: Oncotarget

- Indexed in: Scopus, PubMed,… until 2017 WoS when a controversy started
  - Scopus Cite Score 2018: 3.86 ranked 62 of 320 journals in Oncology
- Many papers by renowned scientists, nobel-price laureats
- Included on Beall's list, not in DOAJ

https://retractionwatch.com/2018/01/19/indexing-company-praises-cancer-journal-kicks/

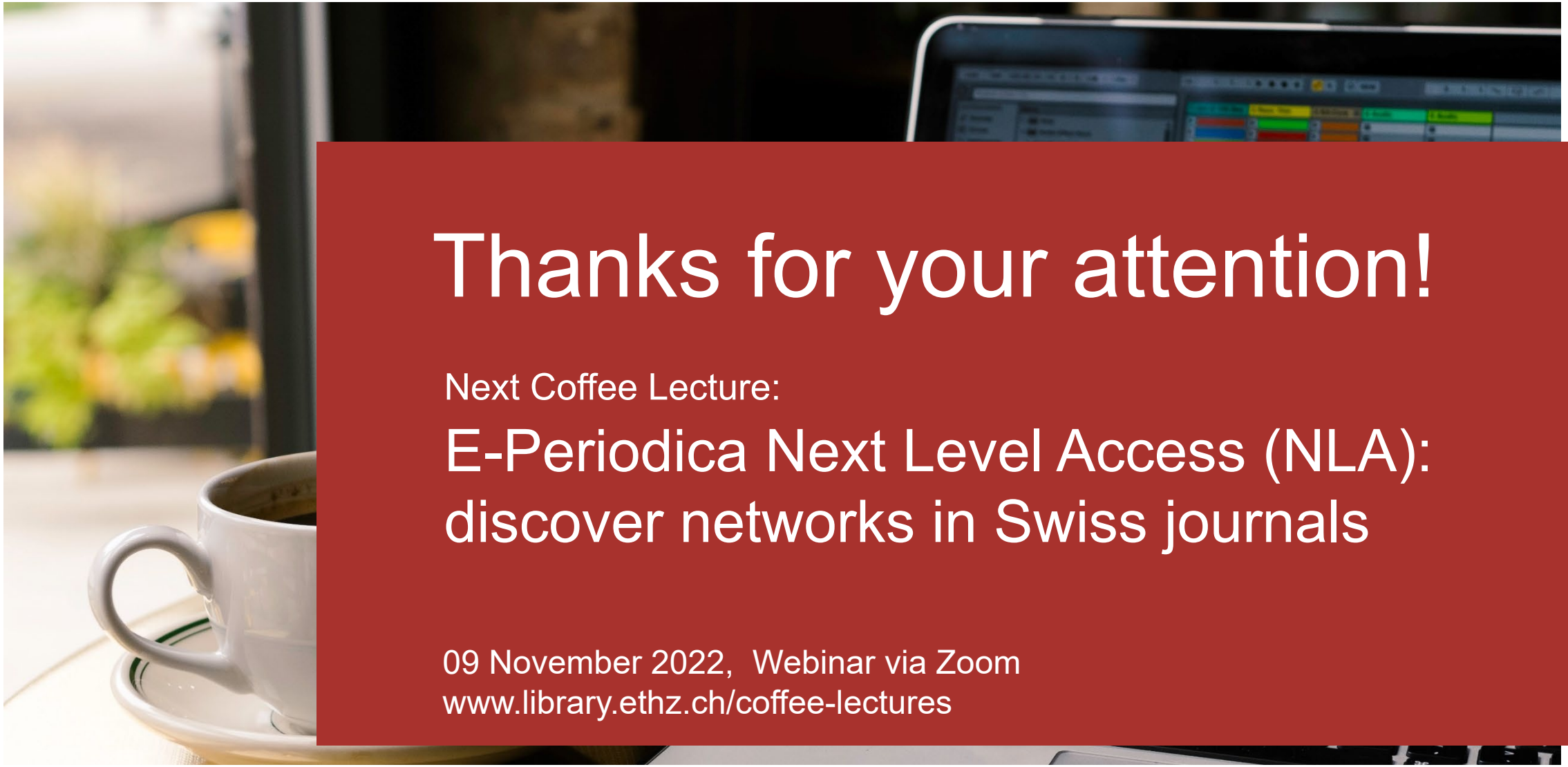
Predatory Publishers & Journals: Characteristics

Relative likeliness for being predatory →

Publication Speed:	low	high
Peer Review Time:	high	short
Mailings:	none or few	aggressive, soliciting
Website: Spelling:	correct	faulty
Website: Pictures:	ok	blured/unauthorized
Impact Metric/Indexing:	DOAJ, WoS, Scopus, PubMed	Index Copernicus Value, etc.
Editorial board members:	verified, renowned scientists	unverified, unknown
Editorial Services:	professional	none
Publishing Practices:	high quality	deceptive

Library recommendations

- Journal selection:
  - Indexing: Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)?
  - Membership: **OASPA** (the Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association) or **COPE** (the Committee on Publication Ethics)?
  - Finish Journal Evaluation site: www.julkaisufoorumi.fi
  - More tips: http://thinkchecksubmit.org
  - Journal's website:
    - Does the journal conduct a **peer review process**?
    - Are acknowledged scientists among the **authors** and **editorial board** members?
- Peer Review: No → Waste of time
- Reading & Citation: Depends on individual article → Better avoid it



Thanks for your attention!

Next Coffee Lecture:

E-Periodica Next Level Access (NLA): discover networks in Swiss journals

09 November 2022, Webinar via Zoom
www.library.ethz.ch/coffee-lectures