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Bottom of the Food Chain: Avoiding Predatory Publishers

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BOTTOM OF THE FOOD CHAIN
Avoiding Predatory Publishers

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Your itinerary

- What is predatory publishing?

- What are its chief characteristics?

- Who are its victims & how are they ensnared?

- Some warning signs

- Resources to help you spot bad actors

On the Origin of the Species

- Predatory publishing: "a practice whereby a company creates a journal on false pretenses for the purpose of defrauding authors" ([Anderson](#) 2019)

- An old practice in a new guise, enabled by technology and opportunity

- Hijacks article-processing charges, sometimes called author-side fees, giving a good thing——open-access publishing——a bad name

- Exploits a key weakness of scholarly communication, namely the role of tenure and promotion and the incentives therein (idealism vs. pragmatism)

The Predator in its Natural Habitat

JOURNAL OF CLINICAL ANESTHESIOLOGY: OPEN ACCESS

Respected Saurab Sharma,

Greetings from the Journal of Clinical Anesthesiology: Open Access!

We came across your article entitled "**Pain-related factors associated with lost work days in nurses with low back pain: A cross-sectional study.**" and we would be glad to publish any of your work.

Your support and collaboration will help the journal in reaching heights, therefore on Behalf of **Yanfu Shao,** the Editor of our journal we with an immense interest would like to invite you to contribute an article like Short commentary or case report, Mini reviews, Reviews or Research articles, Image article, etc., for Upcoming Issue of the Journal.

If you are interested, kindly **submit manuscript at** Clinical Anesthesiology or by mail to *clinanesthesiology@medicalres.org*

Kindly do let me know your interest towards the invitation.

Best Wishes for your continuing research. We look forward to working with you.

Note: All research articles submitted before 15 February 2018 will be provided 50% discount on publication charges.

Regards,

Elena Williams,

Managing Editor

Journal of Clinical Anesthesiology: Open Access

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Get me off Your Fucking Mailing List

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Abstract

Get me off your fucking mailing list. Get me off your fucking mailing list. Get me off your fucking mailing list. Get me off your fucking mailing list. Get me off your fucking mailing list. Get me off your fucking mailing list. Get me off your fucking mailing list. Get me off your fucking mailing list. Get me off your fucking mailing list. your fucking mailing list. Get me off your fucking mailing list. Get me off your fucking mailing list. Get me off your fucking mailing list. Get me off your fucking mailing list. Get me off your fucking mailing list. Get me off your fucking mailing list. Get me off your fucking mailing list. Get me off your fucking mailing list. Get me off your fucking mailing list. Get me off your fucking mailing list. Get me off your fucking mailing list.
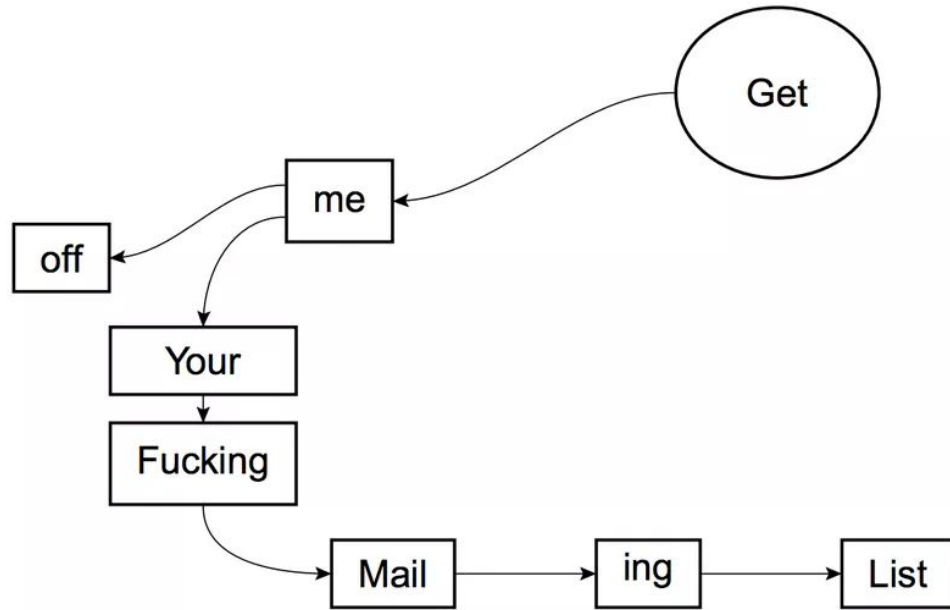
Figure 1: Get me off your fucking mailing list.

Who Falls Prey?

- Plenty of authors, many from the Global South
  - FTC won a $50M judgment against Omics Intl., a deceptive publisher in India

- Four themes (Kurt 2018)
  - unawareness
  - social identity
  - high pressure
  - lack of research proficiency

- Whose concern is this?

Does Your Journal Pass This Test?

Can You Spot the Deception?

- Longdom Publishing

- First Monday

- PubMed House

Warning Signs: Proceed with Caution

- 25 characteristics of a predatory journal via Eriksson and Helgesson (2017)
  - There are no clear policies and or description of how the manuscript is handled
    - Publisher displays prominent statements that promise rapid publication/quick peer-review
    - Editorial Board?
    - American Journal of Business Studies
  - Website contains spelling and grammar errors
  - No physical address listed
    - Academic Open Business & Management Research Journal
  - A bogus impact factor/metric is promoted
    - Asian Business Review
  - There is no digital preservation policy
  - A journal that claims to be open access either retains copyright or fails to mention copyright

Warning Signs: Proceed with Caution

Tools and Resources: Beall's List

- Jeffrey Beall, American Librarian, created "Beall's List" in 2010
  - List of potential, possible, or probable predatory publishers
  - 2017 Archived Version
  - Current List
  - For many, the list served as an influential guide. For others, it lacked transparency.
- So now what?

Tools and Resources: Cabells

- **Cabell's Whitelist**
  - Database of journals helping researchers decide where to publish
  - Journal summaries
  - Manuscript guidelines
  - Historical analytics & Impact Factor
- Issues:
  - Subscription to Business and Computer Science Set only

- Ex: Academy of Management Review

- **Cabell's Blacklist**
  - Searchable database of deceptive and predatory academic journals
  - Criteria is clearly described
  - Clear and fair appeals process
  - Specific reasons for inclusion
- Issues:
  - Search feature is not that advanced and/or practical

- Ex: American Open Economics Journal

Still Struggling to Spot Predatory Publishers?

- Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)
- Publons Journal List
- Look for warning signs
- Utilize Cabell's Directories
- Contact your Librarian!

Learn More on Predatory Publishers

- [A Peek Inside the Strange World of Fake Academia](#)
  - The New York Times (2016)
- [On blacklists and whitelists](#)
  - The Scientist (2017)
- [Predatory Journals Recruit Fake Editor](#)
  - Nature (2017)
- [FTC hits predatory scientific publisher with a $50 million fine](#)
  - Ars Technica (2019)
- [OSI Brief: Deceptive Publishing](#)
  - Open Scholarship Initiative (2019)