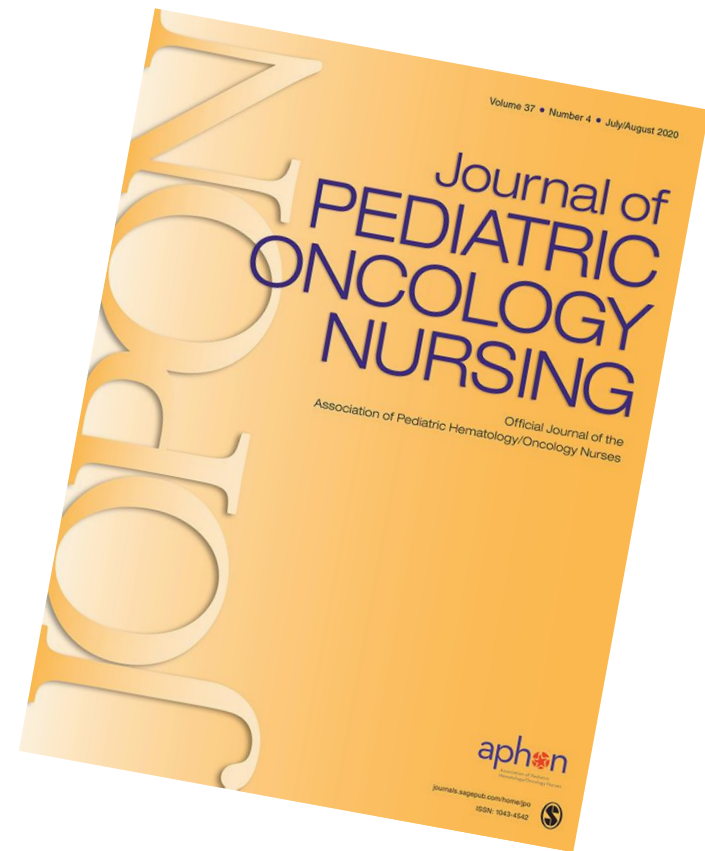


**Protect Your Professional
Life: Beware of Predatory
Publishers and Conferences**

Kristin Stegenga, PhD, RN, CPON
Editor

Suzanne Ameringer, PhD, RN, FAAN
Assistant Editor

Casey Hooke, PhD, APRN, CPON,
FAAN
Assistant Editor



Objective: To raise pediatric hematology/oncology nurses awareness of predatory publishing and conference practices so that they can avoid the pitfalls of these nefarious practices.

Disclosure:

Presenters are the editor and assistant editors for APHON's *Journal of Pediatric Oncology Nursing*

Predatory Publishers & Conference Sponsors

Authors, Readers, Presenters, Attendees....
Beware!



What are predatory publishers?

Some history....

- Predatory publishers are defined as “those that unprofessionally abuse the author-pays publishing model for their own profit” (Beall, 2013)
- “Beall’s list highlighted the issue of predatory journals, but faced criticism over transparency and legal threats from listed titles. It ceased operation in 2017.” (Grudniewicz et al., 2019)

Confusing...

- Predatory journals have found a way to:
 - Join COPE (the Committee on Publication Ethics),
 - Be included in curated indexes such as Web of Science, or
 - Be listed in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)

Creating a definition

- 32 scholars
- 10 countries
- 12 hours of discussion
- 18 questions on Delphi survey
- 3 rounds

(Grudniewicz et al., 2019)

Nature 576 (12)

Grudniewicz et al., 2019

“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.”

Journal of Pediatric Oncology Nursing



ILLUSTRATION BY DAVID PARKINS

4 Key Characteristics:

1. False or Misleading Information

- Journal's website & communications have contradictory statements
- Fake impact factors
- Misled about relationships with professional associations
- Misrepresent editorial board
- Misrepresent rigor of peer review

(Grudniewicz et al., 2019)



Liar,
Liar...

4 Key Characteristics: 2. Deviate From Best Editorial & Publication Practices

- Standards for Transparency and Best Practice in Scholarly Publishing are issued by the DOAJ, the Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association, COPE and the World Association of Medical Editors.
- Examples:
 - Not have a retraction policy
 - Unprofessional-looking web page — with spelling or grammar mistakes



(Grudniewicz et al., 2019)

Journal of Pediatric Oncology Nursing

4 Key Characteristics:

3. Lack of Transparency



- Fail to provide their contact information
- Lack details about article processing charges.
- Editors and editorial boards members often can't be verified

(Grudniewicz et al., 2019)

4 Key Characteristics:

4. Aggressive, Indiscriminate Solicitation

- Flattering language
- Urgent need for forthcoming journal
- Request for articles outside author's expertise
- Mentioning author's past publications

(Grudniewicz et al., 2019)



But..... What about.....

- Journal quality and intent to deceive? A journal could be legitimate but under resourced so poor quality, but doesn't intend to deceive
- Quality of peer review? Is important but impossible to assess

(Grudniewicz et al., 2019)

Why is this important?

Why care?

- Collect millions of dollars in publication fees that are ultimately paid out by funders such as the NIH
- Publish plagiarized manuscripts stealing other scholars work
- Publish unproven science – damaging both consumers and scientists
- Damage professional reputations
- Are a global threat



(Grudniewicz et al., 2019)

How BIG is this problem?



Cabell's Scholarly Analytics (<https://blog.cabells.com/>; 7/ 2020)

1. 13,500 predatory journals listed in the Predatory Reports database; this shows a growth of $\approx 2,000$ journals a year
2. 1/3 of list ($> 4,300$ journals are medical (including multidisciplinary))
3. There are over 5,300 journals listed in Predatory Reports with an ISSN (40%); ISSN can be copied, faked, or simply made up. Having an ISSN is not a guarantee of legitimacy for journals

What are predatory conferences?

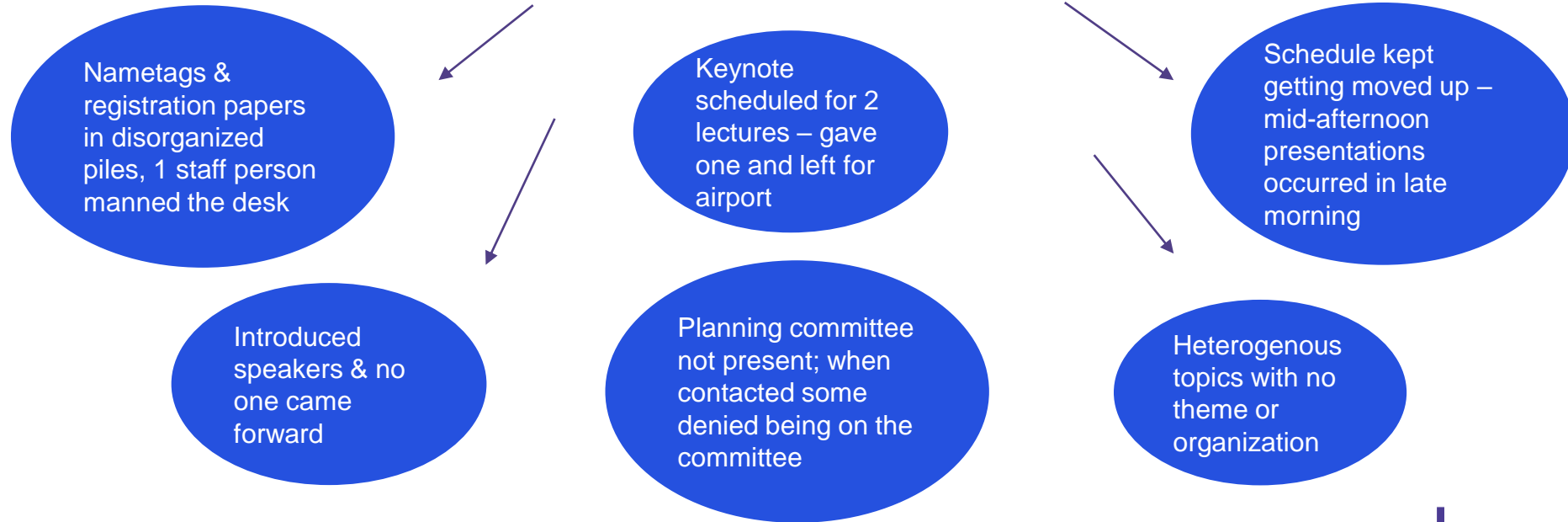
- Use same model as predatory publishers; make money
- Planned (poorly) by for-profit commercial companies; no connection to professional organizations/societies
- Have broad titles; include many topics
- Promise big-name key note speakers
- Held in tourist destinations
- Charge high conference fees plus sometimes speaking fees for presenting abstract or for publishing it
- Prey on academics needing to present their research



From the front lines of experience



Mackenzie (2019) reported on attending a predatory conference in Edinburgh but far from city center



What can you do?



Be informed!

How do I spot a predatory conference?



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A light-hearted example of a Predatory Conference



https://youtu.be/_uv8Ej4CEoQ

Some ways to spot predatory conferences

- * The email invitation is full of over-the-top praise for your work and phrases not common in scholarly communication ("We've noted your vast contributions to the field").
- * There are misspellings on the Web site and few details about the conference content.
- * The group sponsoring the conference is not well known.
- * The sponsor is associated with a publisher of predatory journals.
- * The conference name is very similar to another conference held by an established organization or professional society.
- * The conference scope appears to be quite broad and not specific to your specialty.

(Simpson, 2019)

Journal of Pediatric Oncology Nursing

Dear Dr. **Kristin Stegenga**,

→ We hope you and your loved ones are doing well.

We have read your abstract of the article titled "The Why Behind the Questions: Question-asking in Parents of Children Newly Diagnosed With Cancer - A Report From the Children's Oncology Group", and we believe it would be of great interest to the attendees of our "Annual Pediatrics and Neonatology Summit (APN Summit-2020)" scheduled from **December 02-04, 2020** at Boston, USA.

APN Summit-2020 activity is approved for Maximum of [15] AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)™.

→ We would like to know if you, or someone from your team, would be available to present the similar work at APN Summit-2020 organized by United Scientific Group (A Non-profit Scientific Organization).

→ The conference includes most influential pioneers, highly-cited researchers, most acclaimed speakers, informative panels and some of the best networking you'll find in the field of pediatrics and neonatology. It is an initiative to bring multi-disciplinary focus on a range of Pediatrics specialties such as; cardiology, infant nutrition, child abuse and mental health, infectious diseases, neonatology and perinatology, vaccines etc.

For speakers list and preliminary program: <https://pediatrics.unitedscientificgroup.org/>

→ We are of course aware that the situation regarding COVID-19 is a cause for apprehension. We are prepared to offer virtual participation options, for anyone who are unable to travel.

Dr. Kristin Stegenga, please let us know your availability and interest to send you further details.

Stay safe and healthy. Thank you.

Warm regards,

Yashika Thakur

for Organizing Committee: APN Summit-2020



Nursing Care Summit 2020

Wed 6/10/2020 8:00 AM

To: Stegenga, Kristin, A

*** This message was sent to you from an External Source. Please do not open untrusted links or attachments. ***

Dear Kristin Stegenga,

Greetings of the day!

Would you like to attend as a speaker at our 29th World Nursing Care Congress to be held from September 22-23, 2020 at webinar?

Abstract submission is open, to learn more: [Nursing Care Summit 2020](#).

We look forward to welcoming you to our very exciting conference in webinar.

Your earliest confirmation of this mail will be highly appreciated.

Warm Regards

Frank Turner

Program Manager ||Nursing Care Summit 2020

Phone/WhatsApp: +61-731-236-047

Clicking on the link in the previous email brings us here...



← → ↻ nursingcare.nursingmeetings.com/abstract-submission.php ☆ 📄 👤 ⋮

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29th World Nursing Care Congress

September 22-23, 2020

Exploration of Advancements, Research and Best Practices in Nursing Care

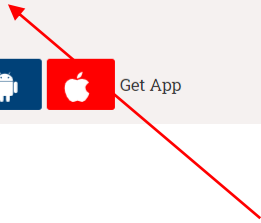
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Scientific Program

Scientific Program (2019)

Scientific Program (2019)

Scientific Program (2018)

Note: Please click on a Speakers name/Title to view speaker's bio and full presentation information



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- › Pharma Marketing & Industry › Pharmaceutical Sciences › Physics › Pulmonology › Veterinary

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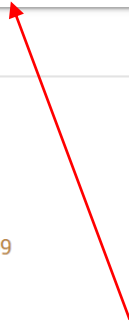
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General Number :: 1-213-233-9462
 General Number :: 1-201-380-5561
 General Number :: 44-203-7690-972
 General Number Asia :: 44-203-808-5340
 Toll Free For UK :: 1800-014-8923
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Global Review on Next Gen Nursing & Human Well-being
Application of 7 Paths to Lasting Happiness for Nursing & Healthcare Professionals
May 28-30, 2020, Orlando, USA
Location: Double Tree by Hilton Orlando at Sea World

Hi K Kristin,

Greetings !

We would like to know your interest to join Nursing Congress 2020.

Conference Program: <https://exceleve.com/nursing/preliminary-program.php>

DAY1: Scientific Program | DAY2: Scientific Program | DAY 3: Local Tour

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,
Keerthi
Program Director
Nursing Congress 2020
Location: DoubleTree by Hilton Orlando at Sea World
e: contact@exceleve.com

Contrast APHON Conference

- Professional association with valid website
- Rigorous process for reviewing abstract submissions by members; review has criteria
- Presentations organized by topic/theme
- Planning committee identified; present
- Contact information provided
- Conference handouts available to attendees before and after conference

How to Spot Predatory Journals



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Background: Open Access

Why should nurses worry about this?

Randomly selected articles (n = 358) from previously identified predatory nursing journals were reviewed for structural content and eight quality indicators.

- Two-thirds (67.4%) of the articles were published between 2014 and 2016 (big rise in publications in predatory nursing journals).
- The majority (75.9%) of the articles were research reports. Most followed the IMRAD presentation of a research report but contained errors, or the study was not pertinent to the nursing discipline.
- Take home message: Nursing research published in predatory journals may appear legitimate by conforming to an expected structure.
 - lack of quality is apparent, representing inadequate peer review and editorial processes.
- Poor quality research erodes the scholarly nursing literature.

(Oermann et al, 2018)

Department of Nursing <nursing@biomedsci
s.info>



Wed 1/22/2020 6:16 AM

To: Stegenga, Kristin, A

*** This message was sent to you from an External Source. Please do not open untrusted links or attachments. ***

Open Access Journal of Biomedical Science (OAJBS)

Dear Dr. Kristin Stegenga,

May you wrap a rainbow of joy in your heart and have a very special Good morning!!

We have launched a [New Issue \(Volume 1 Issue 4\)](#). We need an article to be published in this issue. Is it feasible for you to submit [any article](#) in this instance?

Await to receive your article.

With appreciation,

Jessica Williams

Assistant Managing Editor

→ Greetings from [Journal of Comprehensive Nursing Research and Care](#) (ISSN 2581-3846)

→ I trust everything is fine from your end.

→ We would like to inform you that, your unbound support towards the scientific community is highly appreciated.

Based on your expertise and contribution towards the scientific community, we would like to request you to share your research and submit an article towards the next issue of 2020 volume.



We will be glad to have an article from you for our next issue of 2020 volume. You can submit any type of article. The deadline of submission is on or before 30th July.

→ Hope you will definitely consider and share your valuable articles towards the journal. The publication fee is only \$210USD.

Please feel free to contact us for any further queries.

I am eagerly waiting for your response.

Yours sincerely,
Deepika

Managing Editor

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[Volume 5 - 2011](#)

[Volume 4 - 2010](#)

[Volume 3 - 2009](#)

[Volume 2 - 2008](#)

[Volume 1 - 2007](#)

Article Information

Identifiers and Pagination:

Year: 2014

Volume: 8

First Page: 1

Last Page: 7

Publisher Id: [TONURSJ-8-1](#)

DOI: [10.2174/1874434601408010001](#)

Article History:

Received Date: 9/9/2013

Revision Received Date: 20/12/2013

Acceptance Date: 23/12/2013

Electronic publication date: 10/1/2014

Collection year: 2014



The Open Nursing Journal

ISSN: 1874-4346

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B

- Baishideng Publishing Group
- Basha Research Corporation (BRCORP)
- Basic Research Journals
- Bell Press
- Bentham Open 
- Best Journals
- Better Advances Press
- Betty Jones & Sisters Publishing
- Binary Information Press
- Bio Accent/Bioaccent
- Bio Core/Biocore
- Bioflux Society
- Biohelikon
- Biohouse Publishing Group
- BioInfo Publications
- BioIT international Journals
- Biological and Chemical Publishing
- BioMed Press
- BioMed Research
- BioMedSciDirect Publications

Contrast *Journal of Pediatric Oncology Nursing*

- Complete Contact Information in print journal and online
- Focused topic area
- Editorial Board recognizable. Contact information present
- Peer Review Process present and clearly defined
- Information regarding open-access and standard publishing options available

Checklist for potential predatory journal

- Is there complete contact information for the journal?
- Is the scope multidisciplinary with wide-ranging unrelated fields?
- Is there an Editorial Board
 - Do you recognize the members as leaders in the field?
 - Not sure? Contact a few and see what their experience with the journal is

Checklist continued

- Author fee policy? (Always find out up-front)
- Quality of the manuscripts in the journal
- Delineated peer review process?
- Indexing in appropriate services?
 - ICV indexing
- Retraction policy?
- Pitching authors?

Helpful Resources

- <https://nursingeditors.com/>
- <https://www.editage.com/insights/10-point-checklist-to-identify-predatory-publishers>
- <https://predatoryjournals.com/publishers/>
- <https://guides.mclibrary.duke.edu/beinformed>

Evidence from Predatory Sources

SCIENCE
WE TRUST

Predatory Publishers/Journals and Evidence

- “These journals are increasing rapidly in number and have the potential to alter the results of research syntheses.” (Ross-White et al., 2019, p. 107)
- “Predatory journals provide readers with content that has not been properly vetted and is often of poor quality. Citations to articles from predatory journals, which occur with some regularity in legitimate journals, risk providing misinformation to readers.” (Likis, 2019, p. 523)

Literature on predatory publishers and evidence

“Despite being explicit that he used the term “predatory” with caution, it is the name most frequently used to describe a nebulous concept of research journal publishers who use unethical business practices, minimal or no peer review, or limited editorial oversight to publish articles that are below a minimally accepted standard of quality” (Ross-White et al, 2019)

Predatory Publishers and Systematic Reviews

- **Systematic Review:** A systematic review attempts to identify, appraise and synthesize all the empirical evidence that meets pre-specified eligibility criteria to answer a specific research question (Cochrane Library)
- Ross-White et al., 2019 examined the inclusion of articles from a known predatory publisher (who owned 459 journals) in systematic reviews.
 - 62 of these journals published 120 articles that were cited by at least 1 systematic reviews
 - In total, 157 systematic reviews cited an article from 1 of these journals



Predatory Publishers and Scrutiny of Peer Review

- Bohannon (2013) authored a spoof paper on the anticancer properties of “a chemical extracted from lichen” to test the peer review of open-access journals
- Submitted 304 versions (containing easily identifiable fatal flaws, major errors, impossible future directions) to open-access journals
 - 167 from the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) list
 - 121 from Beall’s list
 - 16 listed by both



How many of the 304 submitted were accepted for publication?

- 157 (52%) accepted!!
- 98 rejected
- Other 49 journals: 29 no longer around, 20 “still under review”
- Journals from Beall’s list: 82% accepted the paper
- DOAJ - 45% accepted the paper

Predatory Nursing Journals

- Oermann et al (2019) aimed to evaluate papers published in predatory nursing journals
 - Identified 127 predatory nursing journals
 - Included in the review: journals that had published at least 100 articles
 - Final sample size: 7 predatory nursing journals that they evaluated

What they found

- 814 citations from papers published in predatory nursing journals – cited in 141 nonpredatory nursing journals
 - Mean (SD) years between publication and citation: 2.95 (1.68)
 - Many papers were cited numerous times
 - 85 review papers (significant review of original research) published in nonpredatory nursing journals cited predatory articles

Further findings

- 141 nonpredatory nursing journals
 - 47 had published 1 paper that cited a predatory article
 - Other journals published numerous papers (e.g., a clinical practice journal published 77 papers)
 - Authors of articles with citations from predatory nursing journals
 - USA: 250 (31%)
 - Australia: 100 (12%)
 - Articles with PMID: (65%) vs. without PMID: (35%) – no significant difference in # of citations
 - Articles with a Journal Impact Factor vs. without PMID: no significant difference in # of citations

Literature Search: Cautions

- Use caution when searching Google Scholar and PubMed Central (Ross-White, 2019; Oehrmann, 2019)
 - The quality control of these databases are not rigorous
- PubMed database: Uses PubMed Central and MEDLINE
 - MEDLINE - journals included meet rigorous criteria.
 - Recommend using journals that are MEDLINE indexed journals

> [Support Care Cancer](#). 2019 Oct;27(10):3949-3967. doi: 10.1007/s00520-019-04848-4.
Epub 2019 Jul 8.

Systematic review of basic oral care for the management of oral mucositis in cancer patients and clinical practice guidelines

Catherine H L Hong ¹, Luiz Alcino Gueiros ², Janet S Fulton ³, Karis Kin Fong Cheng ⁴, Abhishek Kandwal ⁵, Dimitra Galiti ⁶, Jane M Fall-Dickson ⁷, Jorgen Johansen ⁸, Suzanne Ameringer ⁹, Tomoko Kataoka ¹⁰, Dianna Weikel ¹¹, June Eilers ¹², Vinasha Ranna ¹³, Anusha Vaddi ¹⁴, Rajesh V Lalla ¹⁵, Paolo Bossi ¹⁶, Sharon Elad ¹⁷, Mucositis Study Group of the Multinational Association of Supportive Care in Cancer/International Society for Oral Oncology (MASCC/ISOO)

Affiliations + expand

PMID: 31286232 DOI: [10.1007/s00520-019-04848-4](https://doi.org/10.1007/s00520-019-04848-4)

Support Care Cancer. 2019 Oct;27(10):3949-3967. doi: 10.1007/s00520-019-04848-4.

Pub 2019 Jul 9

ACTIONS

Search in PubMed

Search in NLM Catalog

Add to Search

ew of basic oral care for the oral mucositis in cancer patients and e guidelines

Catherine H L Hong¹, Luiz Alcino Gueiros², Janet S Fulton³, Karis Kin Fong Cheng⁴, Abhishek Kandwal⁵, Dimitra Galiti⁶, Jane M Fall-Dickson⁷, Jorgen Johansen⁸, Suzanne Ameringer⁹, Tomoko Kataoka¹⁰, Dianna Weikel¹¹, June Eilers¹², Vinasha Ranna¹³, Anusha Vaddi¹⁴, Rajesh V Lalla¹⁵, Paolo Bossi¹⁶, Sharon Elad¹⁷, Mucositis Study Group of the Multinational Association of Supportive Care in Cancer/International Society for Oral Oncology (MASCC/ISOO)

Affiliations + expand

PMID: 31286232 DOI: 10.1007/s00520-019-04848-4

Supportive care in cancer : official journal of the Multinational Association of Supportive Care in Cancer

Author(s): Multinational Association of Supportive Care in Cancer

NLM Title Abbreviation: Support Care Cancer

ISO Abbreviation: Support Care Cancer

Title(s): Supportive care in cancer : official journal of the Multinational Association of Supportive Care in Cancer.

Other Title(s): SUPPORT CARE CANCER

Publication Start Year: 1993

Frequency: Twelve no. a year 2003-

Country of Publication: Germany

Publisher: Berlin : Springer International, c1993-

Description: v. : ill.

Language: English

ISSN: 0941-4355 (Print)

1433-7339 (Electronic)

0941-4355 (Linking)

Electronic Links: <https://link-springer-com.proxy.library.vcu.edu/journal/520>

In: MEDLINE: v1n1, Jan. 1993-
Index medicus

PubMed: v1n1, Jan. 1993-

Conclusions

- Open access is not the problem, lack of peer review is (Oehrmann, 2019)
 - Quality of paper
 - Accuracy of data
 - Validity of findings
- Dissemination of questionable/inaccurate findings
- Potential effects:
 - Clinicians making decisions about evidence-based practice (based on systematic reviews) – potential harm to patients
 - Families relying on evidence from predatory journals

Links

- Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) journals: <https://doaj.org/>
- MEDLINE, PubMed, and PMC (PubMed Central): How are they different?
<https://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/difference.html>

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