

Predatory journals and conferences

WHAT are they?



Journal and conference practices that deceive or mislead researchers



Include fraudulent, low quality and unethical practices



Motivated by profit, not scholarship, they exist worldwide



Driven by monetisation, research metrics and peer review opacity

WHY are they a problem?



Damage careers and reputations; threaten research integrity



Hundreds of new predatory products every month



Compromise millions of researchers; waste billions of dollars



Dupe new and established researchers

HOW can we combat them?



Practice due diligence



Raise awareness



Communicate their threat to science and society



Work collaboratively to stop them



Find out more at
interacademies.org/project/predatorypublishing

A spectrum of predatory behaviours



TYPICAL MARKERS

FRAUDULENT

- Rapid and unrealistic service
- Poor or no peer review
- Plagiarise reputable outlets
- Use researchers' names without permission
- Fake editorial or advisory boards
- Meaningless programmes
- Lie about their credentials e.g. impact factor

LOW QUALITY

- Breach good practice
- Low quality peer review
- Aggressive or indiscriminate solicitation
- Inactive editorial or advisory board
- Lack of focus or organisation
- Invitations are full of mistakes
- Exaggerate their prestige
- Promised services are poor or lacking

QUALITY

- Thorough peer review
- Strong editorial and advisory boards
- Transparent, robust policy to ensure research and operational integrity (practice due diligence)
- Transparent policy for retraction or refund
- Clear about costs
- Take proper action when challenged

