

# Review of: "Honorary Authorship in Biomedical Journals: The Endless Story"

Manjula Wijewickrema<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka

**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.

The editorial entitled 'Honorary Authorship in Biomedical Journals: The Endless Story' discusses an interesting topic. This editorial discusses the meaning, progression of honorary authorship over time, the advantages, and disadvantages of honorary authorship in brief. In addition, it also covers the influence of honorary authorship on junior and senior researchers. Finally, the author of this editorial suggests a few measures to minimize the incidence of honorary authorship while indicating its problematic aspects. In fact, the contents of the editorial are mainly focused on biomedical literature. However, I think most of the key points highlighted by this short piece of work can also be generalized to other subject domains as well. To improve this editorial further, I would like to draw the attention of the author to the followings: There are more almost similar phenomena to honorary authorship. For example, gist authorship and guest authorship. However, they have subtle differences. While reading this work, I felt that the author has considered all these under one umbrella called 'honorary authorship'. Therefore, I recommend a brief explanation for each of these in the editorial. This article has specifically focused on the H-index as a metric that could be inflated falsely due to the incidence of honorary authorship. I do not why the author only considered the H-index. In my view, performance measures like the number of publications, citations received, number of views, recommendations, and so on can all be increased due to honorary authorship.

The given example to elaborate on the unethical aspects of honorary authorship is not so clear.