

Review of: "Publish or perish: time for a rethink?"

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The article is very interesting and contemporary to the prevailing academic culture of "publish or perish". It presents a compelling argument about the immense pressure on medical teachers and researchers to publish, leading to a deluge of publications business model. It highlights how publications serve as markers of performance and recognition in academia and attract more research funding, perpetuating the pressure further. The use of bibliometrics to illustrate the growth of published scientific papers and the sheer volume of research articles entering databases like PubMed emphasizes the scale of the issue.

The article also delves into the topic of Open Access (OA) publishing and its benefits. In the article the authors attempted to explain how OA provides immediate and global access to research, particularly benefiting academics in less wealthy institutions. The increase in citations, higher impact, and faster publication times associated with OA are also pointed out, strengthening the case for this publishing model. However, the authors argue that one of the main concerns raised is the potential dilution of research quality due to the academic culture of "publish or perish" aligned with OA publishing practices. At the same time, the article also highlighted the difficulty for physicians and academic scholars to sift through and identify relevant research, with the reliance on synoptic materials and executive summaries from pharmaceutical firms and social media. The emphasis on publishing one's own material to stay competitive, rather than absorbing others' work, is seen as contributing to the issue.

The profitability of Open-Access publishing is highlighted in the article along with how it is promoting its expansion. Article Processing Charges (APC) are controversial since some journals appear to make a considerable profit while still referring to publication costs. Additional issues include the advent of predatory publications, unethical behaviours including self-citation and plagiarism, and variances in the integrity of published research. The article suggests some corrective efforts and new publishing models, such as free open-access journals dependent on crowdfunding for review. The importance of the International Congress on Peer Review and Scientific Publishing and its potential to address unethical practices is highlighted, while also suggesting the need for clearer rules and punitive measures to improve the current landscape.

In order to improve both teaching and research quality, the paper ends with an appeal to "unbuckle" instruction from the need to publish. In order to maximise resource allocation, it highlights the significance of creating mutually acceptable standards for research relevance and effectiveness.

Overall, the paper successfully conveys a thorough overview of the demands of academic publication, particularly in the context of Open Access, and offers a critical analysis of its ramifications. It is a well-reasoned and instructive work

because examples and bibliometrics are used to support the ideas.