

# Review of: "[Commentary] To Publish Scientific Journals: For Some, the Big Business of the Century"

Connie Weaver<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> San Diego State University

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

The commentary by Jose Domingo brings our attention to an increasing and alarming pressure on the difficulty of identifying reviewers for the time-honored quality control process of publishing rigorous research. I look forward to reading suggestions for solutions. However, in my lengthy experience as an author, a society treasurer, an editor, a reviewer, a researcher, and a teacher, I find that several opinions and suggestions presented in this commentary lack full consideration of all the issues involved. I list some of them below.

- Paying reviewers would add new pressures to the review process. For example, a reviewer might be less willing to accept a review assignment if they thought payment would come with the expectation of a more extensive review than the pithy points, would harm their reputation if publicized, or caused extra time to fill out the forms for payment. And then the journal expenses would increase to accommodate the payment logistics.
- Revenue for non-scientific publications such as magazines comes from other sources such as advertising, not a likely source for scientific journals. A loss of publishing revenue from society journals may jeopardize the survival of the society.
- Expecting authors to send their papers upon request adds a burden to the authors and is counter to the instant and on-demand technology we now expect.
- Serving as a reviewer is an opportunity for junior scientists to learn and refine their own research, so it should not be excluded from the process but can be paired with experienced scientists. Expanding the reviewer pool is critical to solving the reviewer shortage.
- Working remotely, which became the norm during COVID, is as likely a cause of the escalation of submitted non-laboratory-based papers as is the increase in predatory journals.
-