

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

Blagica Novkovska

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

The author addresses the issue of the rapidly increasing number of journals published under the open access scheme, collecting elevated publication charges. Justified criticism that the charges imposed on authors (in many cases covered by those who finance the research) is expressed from the point of view of the attained level of quality and justified distribution of the income generated by the collection of publication charges.

The author argues that due to the adoption of open access models, the number of journals has substantially increased, requiring involvement of more and more new reviewers. Such a high demand for new reviewers reduces the possibility for selection of reviewers according to the quality of their reports. The increased speed of the reviewing process additionally jeopardizes the quality of the reviewed works, finalizing with publication.

Publication charges levied on the authors are mainly justified by the free access to a larger audience, such as researchers with limited funds, students, etc. However, if the justification for publication charges is based on the need to cover real costs, all parts of the prepublication and publication process are to be treated equally. Hence, the costs of the reviewing phase also must be considered as part of the integral process. Therefore, compensation for reviewers' work done has to be considered. This is almost obvious. However, the rules for assessment of the contribution of each separate reviewer's report are still to be conceived in order to secure fair rewarding of reviewers along with increased quality of publications, without increasing excessively the already established publication charges.

The questions raised by the author deserve further consideration in more detail to reflect the entire picture of burden compared by the benefits of the implementation of open access publication models.