Commentary

To Publish Scientific Journals: For Some, the Big Business of the Century

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This brief commentary addresses the escalating issues within the scientific publishing industry. The author highlights the proliferation of predatory journals and the adoption of similar profit-driven models by established publishers. He points out the ethical dilemma posed by Gold Open Access (OA) journals, which charge significant Article Publishing Charges (APC) to authors while not compensating peer reviewers. The commentary underscores the resulting strain on the peer-review process, with a decline in the availability and quality of reviewers. The author observes a shift from the traditional reciprocal peer-review system to one burdened by challenges, including shortened review deadlines, reliance on less experienced reviewers, and instances of manuscripts being unreviewed. He advocates for compensating reviewers if authors are charged for publication, warning that the current system risks the integrity of peer-reviewed research. Finally, the commentary applauds initiatives like the resignation of editorial board members from Elsevier journals to start non-profit journals, urging scientific communities to regain control of scholarly publishing.

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Author's Biographical Note

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Academic Appointments:

• Full Professor of Toxicology and Environmental Health, 1991–2022, School of Medicine, "Rovira i Virgili" University, Catalonia, Spain.

• Distinguished Professor, "Rovira i Virgili" University, since 2006.

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Research & Publications:

• Founder and Emeritus Director of TECNATOX (TECNATOX).

• Author of 766 documents indexed in SCOPUS (as of January 2024). (SCOPUS Author Search).

• H-index: 88 (Scopus), 104 (Google Scholar) with over 42,800 citations (Google Scholar Profile).

Awards & Honors:

• Highly Cited Researcher, 2014 & 2015.

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Editorial Roles:

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