Letter to the Editor

Comment on: “Predatory journal preference in the field of Orthopedics and Traumatology in Turkey”

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Dear Editor,

We read with curiosity the original article by Sener et al. regarding predatory journals in Orthopedics and Traumatology (1). In a comprehensive manner, the authors analyzed predatory journals and their accomplishments in Orthopedics and Traumatology in Turkey. A work like this should be appreciated as the predators distributed countless flawed articles that undermined evidence-based practice (2).

The critique is about the way of selecting the predatory journals. The authors addressed that they picked substandard journals from Beall's list that is updated by an anonymous manager (1). This may be a source of misjudgment because of the following arguments. First, the list is not updated correctly; in fact, it is just expanded by adding new journals and publishers, as none of the original titles added by Jeffrey Beall were excluded from the list, although there are several journals and publishers, proven to be legitimate later, that were erroneously flagged by Beall, such as Frontiers Media and International Journal of Electrochemical Science (3). Second, the administrator of the website is an anonymous person and not Beall himself (1, 3). This means that no one takes responsibility for the decision regarding enlisting new journals and publishers. Finally, the manager's behavior was observed to be uncertain. For example, Edorium Journals was added to the list only for a few weeks. It was enlisted and excluded without an explanation!

Our proposition is to use the Kscien list, which is a real update of Beall's list. It is run by Kscien Organization for Scientific Research. The Kscien list is the product of persistent brawl of the Kscien organization to offer articulate instructions on how to circumvent the cybercriminals who embattled the researchers merely for procurement of revenue. Kscien has employed a special 23-researcher committee [Predatory List Committee (PLC)] to manage the list. The associates are taught and qualified with several workshops and symposiums to update their information regarding the evolution of predatory journals and publishers (3). Kscien list is beginning to have an international status, especially after approval by The Lancet Psychiatry, as a reference for selecting predatory journals and publishers (2).

References

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Author’s response:

Thank you for your criticism and contribution to our article. It is already stated that there is no consensus on the validity and reliability of Beall’s list in the discussion section of our article. Beall’s list is still widely used in all articles about predatory publishing. In our study, we preferred to use Beall’s list, which is still popular and valid.

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