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Predator and Alien: the threat of predatory journals and conferences

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Summary

Predatory journals, first recognized in the early 2000s, are fraudulent journals characterized by aggressive marketing solicitations and deviation from best publishing practices. These journals claim to be legitimate scholarly journals, and accept articles for publication with no or poor peer review process or quality checks with a rapid publication process upon payment by the authors. They are a global threat as they are dishonest, lack transparency and seek only financial gain. More recently, predatory conferences have emerged and are expanding rapidly. Although they appear to be legitimate scientific conferences, they are also characterised by an over-riding profit motive, with no concern on academic values. Predatory journals and conferences are on the rise; dermatology trainees, readers and those new to publishing and conferences are vulnerable to predatory exploitation. The consequences of falling prey to such predation includes damage to the external reputation of the authors and their Institution and raises concerns about the legitimacy of the research. Several tools are available to help researchers recognise a predatory journal or conference. This educational review defines predatory journals and predatory conferences and summarises their distinguishing features such as no or poor peer review process, rapid acceptance, flattering language and lacking of meeting. We also highlight the consequences of publishing in a predatory journal or attending a predatory conference. The review finally outlines several tools available to use to reduce the likelihood of dermatologists falling into the hands of a predator.

Introduction

Predatory journals emerged in the 2000s and were first highlighted by the librarian Jeffrey Beall in 2012.¹ The number of articles published in predatory journals have vastly increased in recent years.² Predatory conferences have since joined the hunt. The rise of predatory journals and predatory conferences are a threat to the integrity and quality of scientific research.³ Predatory organisations invite researchers and trainees to submit manuscripts to their journals and abstracts for conferences.^{4,5} The incentive for such solicitations is purely financial. Worryingly, predatory journals and conferences often mimic classic journals (e.g. using a name similar to an established journal, claimed impact factor) or conference practices making it difficult to distinguish a predatory journal/conference to a legitimate one.⁶ The objective of this review is to define and describe predatory methods and to provide avenues for young researchers and trainees to avoid becoming victims to such practices.

What are predatory journals?

Definition

A consensus definition, established in 2019 by international experts defined predatory journals as “entities that prioritize self-interest at the expense of scholarship and are characterized by false or misleading information, deviation from best editorial and publication practices, a lack of transparency, and/or the use of aggressive and indiscriminate solicitation practices”.⁷ Predatory journals arose in the era of open access, replacing a model whereby readers pay to access articles to one in which authors pay to publish articles.⁸ The career promotion model in academia (the adage “Publish or perish”, where quantity is more important than quality) has fueled the development of predatory journals. In 2010 there were approximately 1800 such journals, which rose to 8000 in 2016 and to 12000 in 2019.^{2,9} Young researchers are the main target of predatory publishers and many are vaguely familiar with this practice. However, predatory journals are not well known by dermatologists. A 2018 survey of Austrian dermatologists demonstrated the majority were not familiar with predatory journals, especially trainees and junior colleagues.¹⁰ Beall published a list of predatory journals although retracted this in 2017 due to pressure imposed by predatory publishers.³ Moreover, it would be impossible to accurately maintain such a list in view of their exponential replication. Instead, recognizing dubious characteristics and developing critical appraisal skills is recommended.¹¹ **Table 1** comprises a non-exhaustive list of predatory journals in dermatology and their publishers.¹²

Why do researchers get caught by predatory journals?

A 2019 study estimated that 5% of 46,000 Italian researchers had published in predatory journals.¹³ Predatory journals may lure researchers and trainees as a mechanism to obtain quick and easy publications to alleviate pressure imposed by supervisors and peers. Young researchers are prone to be victims to seductive invitations to publish their work in a journal with rapid track process, low fees for open access and occasional guaranteed acceptance.^{14,15} Researchers who published in predatory journals describe the enticing offers as being faster, easier and cheaper options to advance their career, often encouraged by their peers.¹⁶ Some reported lack of awareness of predatory journal status at the time of submission. Distinction between predatory journal and low-quality journals can be difficult especially as several predatory journals claim to have an impact-factor and a small minority are even indexed in Pubmed.¹⁷

What are predatory conferences?

A new and emerging trend are predatory conferences, a close relative of the predatory journal.^{11,18} Although some researchers argue there may be value in attending predatory

conferences for networking, collaborative and professional opportunities gained via international presentations, the setting of predatory conferences are completely unsuitable. Predatory conferences masquerade as legitimate scientific conferences but are, in reality driven by financial gain with no regard for academia.¹⁹ Participants are usually subject to high registration fees and even more exorbitant speaker fees. Organisers of predatory conferences advertise a wide range of diverse meetings, with purported guest speakers hosted in various cities across the world, each more attractive than the last – many are entirely spurious. False promises of publishing abstracts in open access journals and the opportunity to chair meetings can also seduce young researchers.²⁰

Identifying predatory journal and conference invites

Characteristics of a typical email invite are described in **Table 2**. Spam invitations for predatory journals and conferences can be subtly identified through flattering and exuberant language, numerous grammatical errors or non-scientific language and lacking meeting details.^{5,21}

Harms of predatory journals and conferences

These include irritation caused by cluttering inboxes and the embarrassment caused by wasted finances.²² More serious consequences of predatory journals and conferences include a negative impact on the researcher's scientific reputation, credibility and future job opportunities. Bagues *et al* compared CVs containing predatory publications versus otherwise similar CVs and showed that those with predatory publications scored an average of 9% lower than otherwise similar CVs.¹³ Impact on scientific dissemination should also be considered: there is often no archiving in predatory journals and therefore no long-term access to their contents.¹⁵ Moreover, 60% of articles published in predatory journals receive zero citations.²³ There are also repercussions for the readers, both dermatologists and patients which may have adverse consequences for clinical care. Lay persons may not distinguish articles from a legitimate journal versus articles from predatory journals which can be particularly problematic when dermatologists are presented with such literature by patients.¹⁰ Additionally, research funding from taxpayer or charities can often support publication fees.²⁴

Avoiding predators – not so alien techniques

Sniffing out the predator's trap

Detecting specious mail is fundamental to avoid victimization from predatory journals and conferences. Upon receiving such email, move to junk, block sender and immediately report as spam. Unsubscribing has limited effectiveness on the quantity of received spam.⁵ Institutional spam filters can be used but requires regular updates. Red flags signs such as the use of 'global/international' in the conference title, unrelated topic with the invited speaker's expertise and missing or false organiser's contact have been proposed to detect fraudulent conferences.²¹

Spotting the predator

A list of high-quality publishers and journals are available on several registries such as the Directory of Open Access Journals, the Committee on Publication Ethics, Cabell's International Directory and Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association.^{25,26} These registries, however, do not distinguish predatory journals from new, low-quality publishers without malicious intent. **Table 3** illustrates the differences between predatory journals/conferences and legitimate journals/conferences. Several tools (checklists, tutorials, algorithm pathways) have been developed to detect potential predatory journals.^{27,28} "Think. Check. Submit" (<https://thinkchecksubmit.org/>) helps to recognize predatory journals and is

available in 45 languages. The same team have developed a tool for predatory conferences: “Think. Check. Attend” (<https://thinkcheckattend.org/>).

Education - be aware of the threat!

Despite robust checklists and a multitude of supportive services, the ever evolving predatory journal and conference will continue to claim victims. Education and awareness are therefore imperative. We encourage researchers and trainees to attend workshops on predatory publishers and conferences.¹⁹ Last but not least, asking for advice: seniors, mentors and information scientists may reveal additional tips in dealing with predatory journals and selection of suitable journals when submitting research.²⁹

Conclusion

Young researchers and trainees are vulnerable to predatory journal and conference tactics, even with the countermeasures discussed here. A culture shift away from utilizing quantity of published material as a surrogate for individual academic performance is required to protect individuals. This could be supported by cessation of journals citing articles from predatory journals and superficial accreditation for associated conferences.^{19,30} Currently however no definitive dissuasive measure exists; therefore, the number of predatory journals and conferences continues to multiply, reinforcing the need to raise awareness and educate trainees and young researchers to recognise these practices.

Learning points

- Predatory journals and predatory conferences substitute quality control and robust academia for financial gain at the expense of researchers and young trainees.
- Vulnerable academics are at risk of falling prey to the often seductive and charming predatory tactics to gain quick publications and presentations.
- Reasons for falling prey to such solicitations include a desire to boost a CV and/or pressure to publish.
- Publishing in predatory journals and conferences negatively impacts on scientific reputation, researcher's credibility, as well as patient care.
- Subtle clues help distinguish predatory journals and conferences from genuine equivalents. Grammatical inconsistencies aid in detection of e-invites and online checklists supplement decision making in the process of manuscript submission.
- Whilst it is impossible to keep track of all the current predatory journals and conferences, protection can be facilitated through educational workshops, developing critical appraisal skills and open discussion with senior colleagues.

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Tables

Table 1. List of predatory journals in Dermatology (*non-exhaustive, update of the list published by Maddy et al in the British Journal of Dermatology in 2017*)

Journal	Publisher	Claimed impact-factor
American Journal of Dermatology and Venereology	Scientific & Academic Publishing	-
Annals of Dermatological Research	Heighten Science Publications	-
ARC Journal of Dermatology	Academicians' Research Center (ARC)	-
Archives of Dermatology	Sryahwa Publications	-
Asian Journal of Dermatology	Science Alert	-
Austin Journal of Dermatology	Austin Publishing Group	2.4
Clinical and Experimental Dermatology and Therapies	Gavin Publishers	2.05
Clinical Dermatology and Dermatitis	Boffin Access	-
Clinical Dermatology Open Access Journal	Medwin Publishers	2.0987
Clinical Dermatology Research Journal	SciTechnol	0.11
Clinical Pediatric Dermatology	Prime Scholars	0.16
Clinical Research in Dermatology	Asclepius Open	-
Clinical Research in Dermatology: Open Access	Symbiosis	1.2
Dermatology and Clinical Research	Stechnolock	-
Dermatology and Dermatits	Auctores Publishing	-
Dermatology Aspects	Herbert Open Access Journals	-
Dermatology Clinics and Research	SciTech Central Inc.	-
Dermatology Open Journal	Openventio Publishers	-
Dermatology Research	SciVision Publishers	-
Dermatology Research and Reports	Biores Scientia	-
Dermis	Magnus Med Club	-
Enliven: Clinical Dermatology	Enliven Archive	-
Frontiers in Dermatology and Cosmetology	Sciaeon	-
Global Dermatology	Open Access Text	-
Global Journal of Dermatology & Venereology	Synergy Publishers	-
Global Journal of Venereology	Global Science Research Journals	-
Henry Journal of Clinical, Experimental and Cosmetic Dermatology	Henry Publishing Group	-
HSOA Journal of Clinical Dermatology & Therapy	Herald Scholarly Open Access	0.38
International Journal of Clinical & Experimental Dermatology	OPAST	0.68
International Journal of Clinical Dermatology & Research	SciDoc Publishers	-
International Journal of Dermatology & Cosmetic Sciences	McMed International	-
International Journal of Dermatology and Clinical Research	Peertechz	-
International Journal of Dermoscopy	Jaypee Journals	-
International Journal of Research in Dermatology	Medip Academy	-

Investigative Dermatology and Venereology Research	Ommega Publishers	-
JOJ Dermatology & Cosmetics	Juniper Publishers	-
Journal of Clinical and Cosmetic Dermatology	Sci Forschen	-
Journal of Clinical and Experimental Dermatology Research*	Longdom Publishing SL	-
Journal of Clinical and Investigative Dermatology**	Avens Publishing Group	-
Journal of Cosmetics, Dermatological Sciences and Applications	Scientific Research Publishing	-
Journal of Cosmetology and Trichoscopy	Hilaris Publisher	1.4
Journal of Dermatological Research	ACT Publishing	-
Journal of Dermatology & Cosmetology	MedCrave	-
Journal of Dermatology and Clinical Research	JSciMed Central	-
Journal of Dermatology and Cosmetic Therapies	JScholar Publishers	-
Journal of Dermatology and Dermatologic Diseases	Hilaris Publisher	-
Journal of Dermatology and Dermatopathology	Annex publishers	-
Journal of Dermatology and Plastic Surgery	Remedy Publications	-
Journal of Dermatology and Skin Care	Scholarena	-
Journal of Dermatology Research	Athenaeum Scientific Publishers	-
Journal of Dermatology Research and Therapy	ClinMed International Library	-
Journal of Skin and Stem Cell	Brieflands	-
Journal or Dermatology and Skin Science	Sciaccess Publishers LLC	-
JSM Dermatology and Clinical Research	JSM Central	-
Madridge Journal of Dermatology & Research	Madridge Publishers	-
Mathews Journal of Dermatology	Mathews Open Access Journals	-
RFP Journal of Dermatology	Red Flower Publication Private Limited	-
Scientific Journal of Clinical Research in Dermatology	SciRes Literature	-
SciTz Dermatology	Scitechz	-
SF Journal of Dermatology	ScienceForecast Publications LLC	-
Skin diseases and Skin Care	Insight Medical Publishing	-
SM Dermatology Journal	JSM Central	-
The Internet Journal of Dermatology	Internet Scientific Publications	-
The Journal for Dermatology	Photon Foundation	4.66
The Open Dermatology Journal***	Bentham Open	-
Theranostics of Respiratory & Skin Diseases	Lupine Publishers	-
TJPRC: International Journal of Dermatology and Cosmetology	Trans Stellar	-

*Three of the journals had articles indexed in Pubmed: *had 6 articles; **4 articles and ***2 articles. The research was made in February 2023: identification of predatory journals and their publishers was made using Maddy's list. Each journal was searched on the internet and on Pubmed, claimed*

impact factor was extracted from the journal's website. New predatory journals were included based on spams received by emails and publisher's website. Journals with a very basic website with no content online (i.e. no previous or current issues, no information on author's guidelines and no information on Editorial board) were not considered as 'active' journals and therefore were not listed in this Table.

Table 2. Characteristics of spams received for predatory journal or predatory conference

Shared characteristics	
Different names between address mail and signatory*	Mail: david10@openaccessjournal.com Signatory: Mr. John Smith
Email signed by well-know personality	Ricky Martin Editorial Manager Jessica Alba Program Manager
Flattering language / addressed as a Professor or Doctor if you are not	“Respected Prof. Leducq S” "Honorable Williams Hywel C”
Nonprofessional address mail*	cosmeticdermatology@gmail.com
Outside of researcher’s expertise	“5th International Conference on Photonics Research” “The 9th International Congress of Gynaecology and Obstetrics-2023” “International Heart Congress”
Grammatical errors	“I’m sure it is helpful for other researchers to have the product of your innovative work out in the world.” “Your presence will be an excellent addiction to our program”
Adjectives	“provides an excellent opportunity” “Waiting to receive your valuable submission” “We are truly obliged to introduce our Journal”
Gave little information	“We would like to request you to submit a 2-5 page short communication/ Research / Review/ Case Report/Short Note/Short Communication/Perspective. The aim of the regular issue is to advance the state of knowledge and expertise in the field of Dermatology.” “The Journal publishes papers of the highest scientific merit and widest possible scope of work in all areas related to medical and dental science.” “I have chosen some illustrious people like you to support us in launching this issue dealing with all aspects of “Dermatology”.” “You can submit your article from any discipline related to Clinical and Medical



	fields in our upcoming issue of the journal.”
Link unsubscribe	“Please notify us if you no longer wish to receive communications from us, unsubscribe here”
Citation of the researcher’s latest published papers	“Our research team was captivated by the title "Research Techniques Made Simple: Randomized Controlled Trials for Topical Drugs in Dermatology: When and How Should We Use a Within-Person Design?" from one of your most recent study articles which is extremely impressive.”
False addresses / virtual office address / non full contact information*	<p>Skin Congress 2023 Tokyo, Japan Program Manager Skin Congress-2023 Email: skin@conferences.com Phone: + 1 (700) 999-9999 WhatsApp: +1 (540) 999-9999</p> <p>----- 800 N State St, Chicago, IL 60610, USA</p> <p>Contact: Mr. Smith Organizing Coordinator of International Dermatology Congress-2023 Email: john.smith@gala.com</p>
Personalized addressed with flattering salutations	“It is an immense pleasure to contact an eminent person like you.”
Solicitations with short deadlines / Mention of urgency in responding to the invitation	<p>“Hope you will not disappoint me and coming back with your email within 24 hours will boost my hope to me.”</p> <p>“If you are interested, kindly respond to this invitation within 48 hours.”</p> <p>“We appreciate your manuscript submission on before 10th, February 2023 or earlier, so that we can process for our issue release.” <i>(mail received on 3th February 2023)</i></p>
Lots of exclamations points/exaggerating formulation	<p>“Greetings!!!”</p> <p>“Firstly May this New Year 2023 brings an aura of exuberance, vitality, health, and happiness into your family.”</p>
Submission of abstract by mail*	“You may submit your paper directly at this Email.”



	“Contribute your article through email to editor@openaccessjournal.com”
Claimed to no be a spam	“Disclaimer: This is not a spam message and has been sent to you because of your eminence in the province. If, however, you do not want to receive any email in future reply us with the subject "remove /unsubscribe". We concern for your concealment.”
Predatory journals characteristics	Predatory conferences characteristics
Assurance of acceptance of publication	Guarantee that abstracts will be published in high impact or indexed journals “As a Speaker, you will have following privileges: Get Certified for your participation Abstract will be published with the DOI Number”
Disseminate this call of papers to colleagues “Please feel free to disseminate this call for papers in your scientific community.” “If you are busy with your prior commitments, kindly suggest your friends or colleagues to help in issue release.”	To visit the city “In addition to the exciting program, you will be able to enjoy the culture and sights of Dalian. Dalian is a unique destination or that preserves a multi-cultural heritage alongside state-of the art tourist facilities and a full calendar of festivals, sports competitions and special events all year around.”
Fee reduction if submitted quickly “Note: Invited authors will get huge discount on publication fee.” “For selected eminent authors, publication charges are reduced to 159USD or 5000 INR only.”	Lacking details of the meeting and program “The conference's discussion would center on the theme of "Let’s know the challenges and opportunities arising in Medical Health Science & Pharmaceutical Industry " ”
	Located in small hotels and never in conferences centres or universities “Holiday Inn Amsterdam Arena Towers, Amsterdam, the Netherlands”
	Pseudo benefits for participants “Participation benefits (Complimentary

	accommodation, chance to win 2000 USD prize, etc.) will be provided.”
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**Names, emails and addresses have been changed to preserve anonymity*

Table 3. How to determine whether a journal or a conference is potentially predatory?

Journals	 Legitimate journal	 Potential predatory journal
Journal and website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Journals affiliated to a society • Indexed in scientific database (e.g. Pubmed) (<i>an absence from database does not mean it is a predatory journal</i>) • Affiliations to official organisation (e.g. ICMJE) • Full and verifiable contact information/address 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not known by community • Journal name similar to a well-known journal (e.g. <i>British Journal of Dermatology Open</i>) • No impact factor / unrealistically high impact factor/use of misleading metrics/fraudulent impact factors or metrics • Inconsistent headquarters locations • Rudimentary website • Not a member of best practice guidelines • Falsely claiming inclusion in scientific databases (e.g. Pubmed)
Articles published	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High quality articles published • Articles published have been cited by other journals • Regular publication of articles (every month or week) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low quality of the published articles • Articles not cited • Mostly low number of articles published every month
Submission and fees/article processing charges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authors guidelines available online and well detailed • Submission site • Fees are applicable for open access journal • Transparent fees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short delay of submission • Discount on publication fees • Low publication fees • Non indication of fees on authors guidelines • Aggressive spams invitations to solicit articles • No retraction policy
Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peer review process is described 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poorly peer reviewed or no peer reviewed • Guarantees acceptance • Rapid track process
Editorial board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experts in their field and known by the community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No editorial board • No real persons on the editorial board/fabricated editorial board/fraudulent use of names of researchers • Geographical diversity of the editorial board

Conferences	 Legitimate conference	 Potential predatory conference
Organizer and website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizers are professional societies and other well-established organizations Affiliations to universities or societies Conferences every year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several conferences in different domains organized by the same instance Conferences not known by colleagues/seniors If the same conference is held at multiple times in different cities, or the organizer is holding multiple conferences at the same time, proceed with extreme caution Aggressive spams invitations to solicit abstracts Affiliated to a predatory journal/publisher
Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In person meeting or both in person/virtual meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simultaneous conferences at the same time and place on different topics Cities around the world/exotic locations Located in small hotels (never in conferences centres or universities)
Theme/program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One specialty by congress Program available online 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Out of your field of expertise Titles too vague No program available Global/international/world often used in the title Abstracts accepted available online although submission is still open Low quality of submitted abstract
Abstract submission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most legitimate conferences do not guarantee publication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acceptance of the abstract The conference organizers promise paper publication Accepting abstracts after the submission deadline
Fees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No fee for speaker 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High fee/speakers pay more than attendees
Sponsors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> List of sponsors and societies supporting the conference is available on the conference's website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No sponsor, no society
Awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited number of awards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A large number of awards are announced

Abbreviations:

ICMJE: International Committee of Medical Journal Editors

CPD questions

Learning objective

To gain up-to-date knowledge on predatory journals/conferences and how to avoid them

Question 1

Which of the following is usually associated with predatory journals?

- (a) Improvement in clinical care
- (b) Long publishing timelines
- (c) No author's fee for publishing
- (d) High quality of the articles published
- (e) No or poor peer review process

Question 2

Which of the following is usually associated with predatory conferences?

- (a) Located in conferences centres or universities
- (b) The same conference being held at multiple times in different cities
- (c) No fee for speaker
- (d) Affiliated to a legitimate journal
- (e) Organisers are institutional societies

Question 3

Which of the following is a warning sign that a journal is predatory?

- (a) Is indexed in large databases
- (b) Is included in Directory of Open Access Journals
- (c) Members of the editorial board are recognized experts in their field
- (d) Very broad coverage of a topic
- (e) Charged article publication fees

Question 4

What is a typical feature of predatory journal and predatory conference spam email?

- (a) Submission of abstract by mail
- (b) Professional address mail
- (c) No spamming
- (d) Sent within sufficient time of the given deadline
- (e) No grammatical errors

Question 5

Which of the following is a tool to aid identifying trusted publishers for research?

- (a) www.casp-uk.net
- (b) www.thinkcheckattend.org
- (c) www.thinkchecksubmit.org
- (d) www.comet-initiative.org
- (e) <https://www.equator-network.org/>

Answer 1

Which of the following is usually associated with predatory journals?

- (a) Incorrect. The combination of poor peer review or no peer review and quick turnover, means that published material may be inaccurate or factually incorrect

- (b) Incorrect. The turnover time to publication is often very short owing to the lack of peer review and minimal editorial input
- (c) Incorrect. High personal costs to authors are associated with publishing in predatory journals, often at the expense of public funds
- (d) Incorrect. Articles published in predatory journals are poor quality
- (e) Correct. Peer review is often very poor if present at all in the process of submission to predatory journals

Answer 2

Which of the following is usually associated with predatory conferences?

- (a) Incorrect. They are not located in prestigious institutions or universities and are usually located in hotels
- (b) Correct. There tends to be a duplication of the same conference being held, or the organizer is holding multiple conferences on different topic at the same time
- (c) Incorrect. Speakers have to pay a high fee and pay more than attendees
- (d) Incorrect. They can be affiliated to a predatory journal
- (e) Incorrect. Predatory conferences are organized by for-profit companies

Answer 3

Which of the following is a warning sign that a journal is predatory?

- (a) Incorrect. They are usually not indexed in large databases, although a few predatory journals are indexed in Pubmed
- (b) Incorrect. Directory of Open Access Journals is an index of open access scholarly research journals (legitimate journals)
- (c) Incorrect. Some predatory journals do not list the editorial board on the website and if a list of the editorial members is available, usually it is a fraudulent use of names of researchers
- (d) Correct. Predatory journals have usually a very broad scope to attract a large number of article submissions
- (e) Incorrect. Predatory journals usually charge article publication fees but legitimate can also requested publication fees for open access article

Answer 4

What is a typical feature of predatory journal and predatory conference spam email?

- (a) Correct. Researchers are directed to submit their abstract by mail
- (b) Incorrect. Non-professional address mails can be used such as outlook.com or gmail.com addresses
- (c) Incorrect. Aggressive spams invitations to solicit abstracts
- (d) Incorrect. Solicitations with short deadlines/ mention of urgency in responding to the invitation
- (e) Incorrect. Includes grammatical errors, misspelled words and flattering formulations

Answer 5

Which of the following is a tool to aid identifying trusted publishers for research?

- (a) Incorrect. The Critical Appraisal Skills Programme (CASP) helps readers to critically appraise research by providing checklists to assess trustworthiness, relevance, and results of published studies.
- (b) Incorrect. This is a tool to aid in identifying appropriate conferences to present academic work.

- (c) Correct. This website guides users in recognising trusted journals and publishers for their research.
- (d) Incorrect. Core Outcome Measures in Effectiveness Trials (COMET) helps users develop and identify core outcome sets (COS); COS are an agreed standardised set of outcomes that should be measured and reported, as a minimum, in all clinical trials in specific areas of health or health care.
- (e) Incorrect. The EQUATOR (Enhancing the QUALity and Transparency Of health Research) Network is an international initiative that seeks to improve the reliability and value of published health research literature by promoting transparent and accurate reporting and wider use of robust reporting guidelines.