

“PUBLIER SANS PÉRIR: DÉTECTER ET FUIR LES REVUES PRÉDATRICES”

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Publier ou périr (« Publish or Perish ») est devenu la norme. Ce contexte très concurrentiel a vu apparaître de nombreuses revues dites prédatrices qui, sous l'apparence d'authentiques revues scientifiques, n'assurent pas les contrôles qualité attendus, et souvent multiplient aussi les pratiques douteuses et malhonnêtes, pour leur seul gain financier. Ces revues prédatrices, sont-elles nombreuses ? Comment les détecter et les éviter ? Et quels sont les risques encourus si l'on publie dans ces revues ?

La présentation fera le tour de ces questions, donnera quelques exemples et fournira des outils concrets permettant d'évaluer le sérieux d'une revue scientifique afin d'éviter de confier le fruit de son travail à une revue prédatrice.

Lundi 21 septembre 2020 à 12h30

Salle 7A-7-731/732 – 7ème étage - Bâtiment Prévost, Aile Jura

Publier sans périr

détecter et fuir les revues
prédatrices

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21 septembre 2020

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**UNIVERSITÉ
DE GENÈVE**

AGENDA

1. Que sont les éditeurs prédateurs?

Quelques exemples

Quelques chiffres

2. Pourquoi est-ce un problème? Et pour qui ?

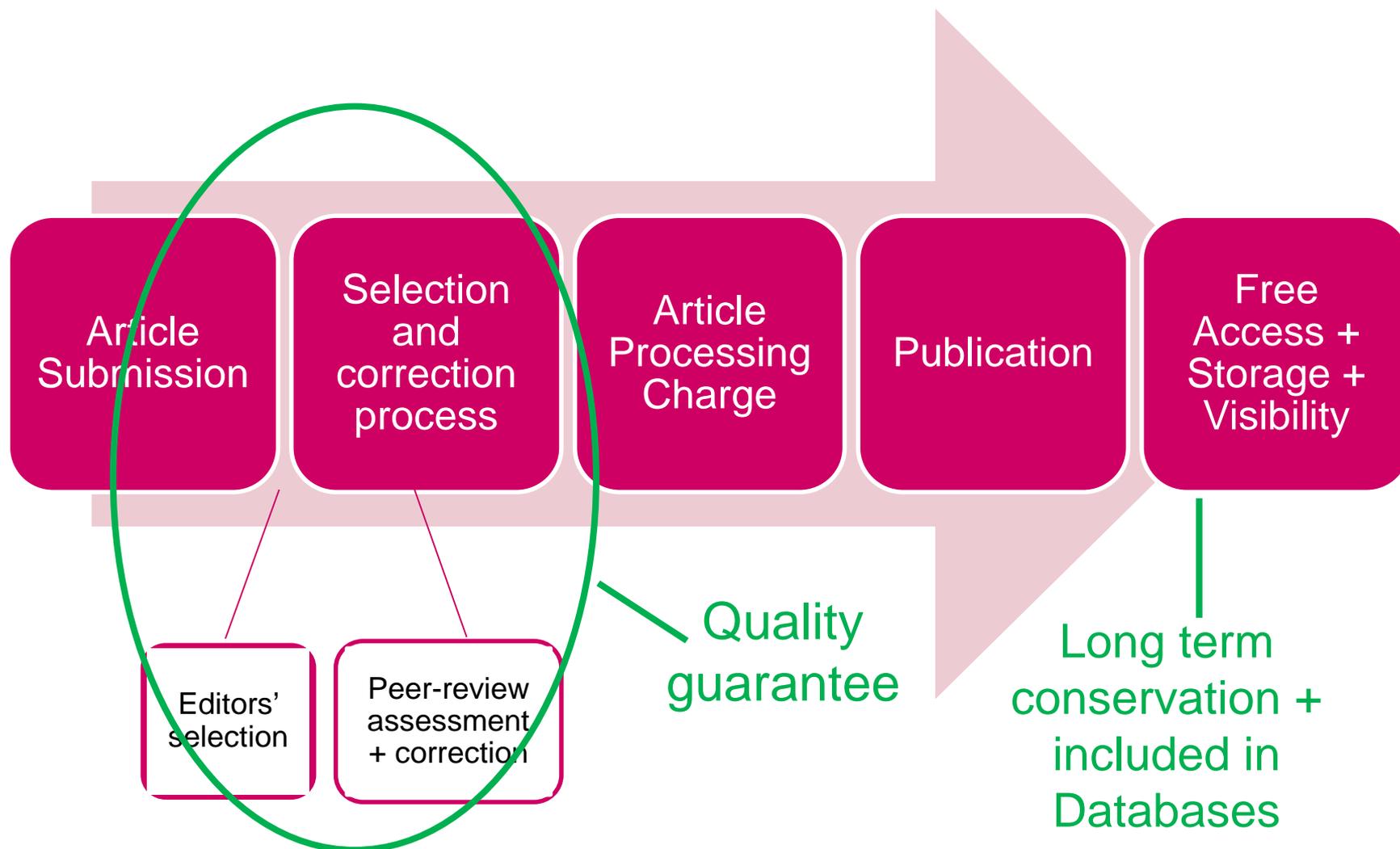
3. Quels critères/outils pour les détecter?

WHAT'S A PREDATORY JOURNAL?

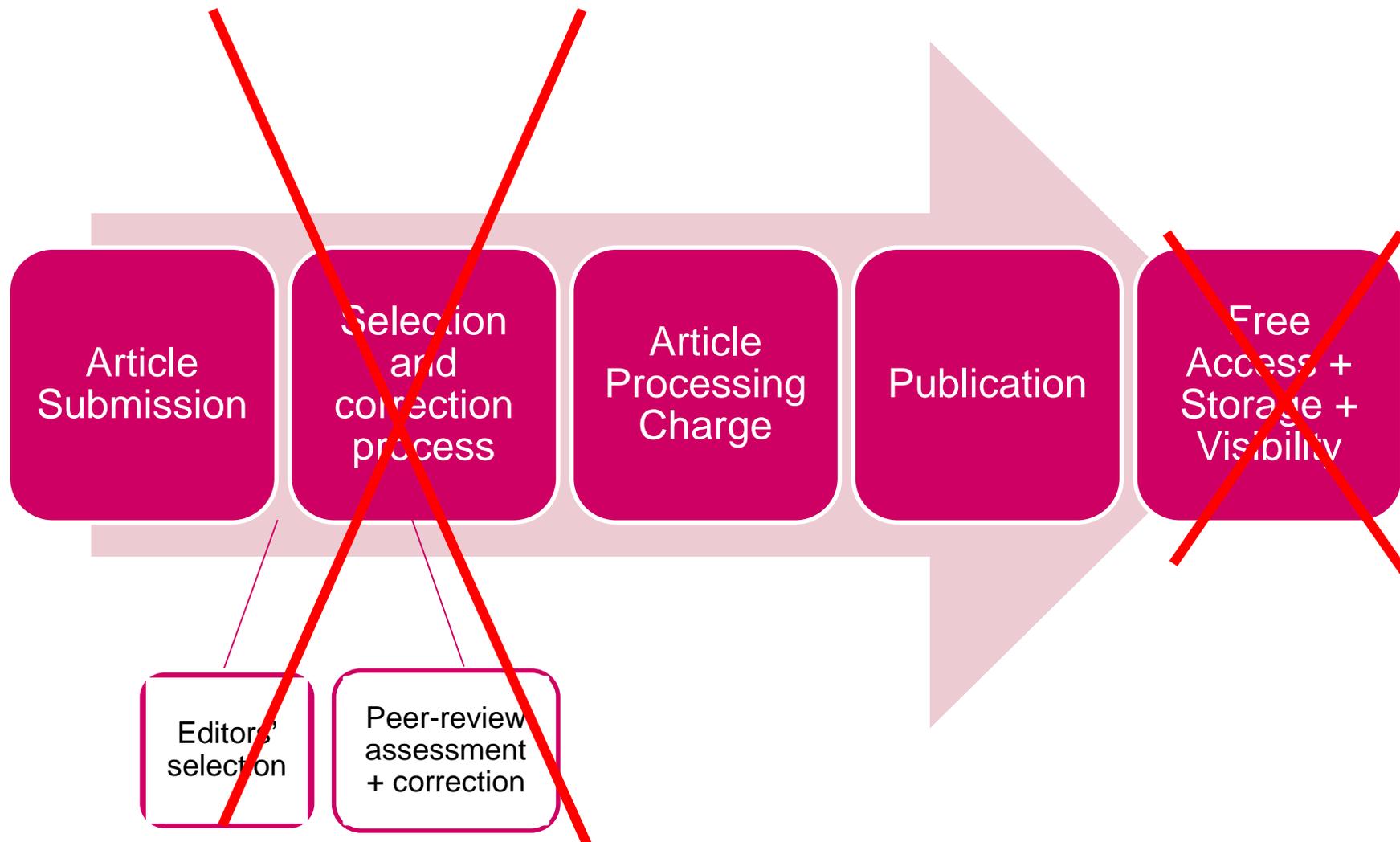
“Predatory journals pose as scientific journals: they offer to publish articles in return for a fee, but they do not offer services with regard to quality control and editing as you would expect from a serious scientific journal.”

([SNSF's position with regard to predatory journals](#),
FNS Open Access FAQ, <https://oa100.snf.ch/>)

Classic (Gold Open Access) Journal



Predatory Journal



SOME PREDATORY JOURNALS' PRACTICES

A wide array of **unethical business practices**, such as

- **Fraudulent claims**: about where they are indexed, impact factors
- **False pretense**: copying names and designs of established journals
- **Deceptive promises**: implausible swift publication, yet peer review
- **No transparency**: about quality control, fees, copyright, withdrawal and digital archiving
- **Fictional editorial boards**, or using the names of recognised researchers without their knowledge !
- **Spam** emails, sometime overly flattering



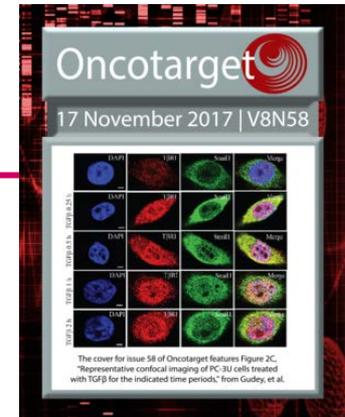
«*Acceptance was the norm, not the exception*»

- Fake article submitted by Bohannon (2) with many methodology and data mistakes, fake researchers from fake African institutions to 304 Open Access journals including 121 supposed Predatory Journals
 - 82% of supposed Predatory Journals accepted the paper
 - Acceptance took 40 days on average
 - 60% of acceptance occurred with no sign of peer review
 - When peer review existed, it was focused on paper's layout, formatting and language

EXAMPLES

Journal's quality can fluctuate over time

- *Oncotarget* was a renowned cancer journal with an impact factor of 5.2 in 2016
 - Was quite popular among swiss researchers (110 articles in 2015-7)
 - Was removed from MEDLINE databases and Clarivate Analytics because “it no longer meets the standards necessary for continued coverage”
 - Has a huge impact on visibility and metrics
 - Still in PubMed through PMC
- *Experimental & Clinical Cardiology*
 - «published for 17 years by a respectable Canadian subscription publisher», then was purchased by another publisher (swiss)
 - Number of published articles increased **from 63 in 2013 to over 1'000 in 2014** (Shen et al. 2015)
 - Was removed from MEDLINE databases and Clarivate Analytics
 - Website no longer accessible... articles after 2013 are lost.



EXAMPLE OF PHISHING: SWISS HIJACKED JOURNAL

SAUSSUREA

Multidisciplinary International Peer Reviewed Journal
Indexed in Web of Science (E-ISSN: 0373-2525)



HOME | JOURNAL SCOPE AND AIMS | INDEXED AND ABSTRACTED | AUTHOR'S GUIDE | PUBLISHED VOLUMES

PUBLISHED VOLUMES

SEARCH

2011 Volume 1

Issue 1 - Jun 2011
Issue 2 - Dec 2011

2012 Volume 2

Issue 1 - Jun 2012
Issue 2 - Dec 2012

Hijacked journal

- Accepts anything, on any topic
- Falsely claims to be indexed in WOS
- ISSN is that of the legitimate journal
- Volume 1 in 2011

Real journal

- Online until 2010.
- Then, paper only
- Vol 40 in 2010

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Société Botanique de Genève

Accueil > Publications de la Société botanique de Genève

Liste des publications de la Société botanique de Genève 30 Ko

Saussurea est le journal de la Société botanique de Genève.
Il comporte les rubriques suivantes :

- **Notre Société** : relate la vie de la Société botanique de Genève.
- **Presse** : présente les nouvelles régionales et internationales sur la botanique
- **Découverte** : articles de vulgarisation scientifique.
- **Synthese** : décrit un thème de recherche en permettant de comprendre son contexte et ses enjeux.
- **Recherche** : articles scientifiques originaux et expertisés dans le domaine de la botanique et de la mycologie.
- **Pratique** : fournit des informations pratiques sur des livres, des sites web, des associations, etc.
- **Agenda** : calendrier des principales manifestations botaniques locales et régionales.

Saussurea
Journal de la Société Botanique de Genève

39
Société fondée en 1875
2009

Saussurea 40 (2010)

ISSN: 0373-2525 40 1-143 (2010)

PREDATORY CONFERENCES: EXAMPLES

- Fake Conferences

OMICS International
Conferenceseries.com



Paper Presentation
Special award for best performance
9th International Conference on
Emerging Infectious Diseases
August 27-28, 2018 | Zurich, Switzerland

Submit your abstract to - <https://emergingdiseases.infectiousconferences.com/>
PS: <https://emerging-diseases.infectiousconferences.com/call-for-abstracts.php>

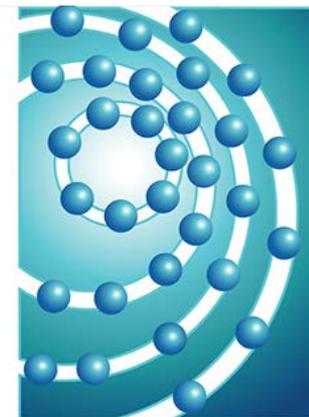
Emerging Diseases 2018

Zika Virus Tissue Sampling Protocol's Purpose Defined through Algorithm in Anatomic Pathology for trainees.

9th International Conference on
Emerging Infectious Diseases
Zurich, Switzerland | August 27-28, 2018

Kristine McCluskey
Baylor College of Medicine
Texas, USA

Entertain confusion with established ones:



ICEID
2018

International Conference
on Emerging Infectious Diseases

August 26-29, 2018
Atlanta, Georgia

FTC vs OMICS

<https://www.ftc.gov/enforcement/cases-proceedings/152-3113/federal-trade-commission-v-omics-group-inc>



FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION
PROTECTING AMERICA'S CONSUMERS

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OMICS Group Inc.

TAGS: [Consumer Protection](#) | [Advertising](#)

LAST UPDATED: OCTOBER 15, 2019

Federal Trade Commission v. OMICS Group Corporation, Conference Series LLC, a Defendant

FTC MATTER/FILE NUMBER: 152 3113

CIVIL ACTION NUMBER: 2:16-cv-02022

ENFORCEMENT TYPE: Federal Injunction

FEDERAL COURT: District of Nevada

CASE TIMELINE

October 11, 2019

 [Federal Trade Commission v. OMICS](#)

April 3, 2019

 [Order Granting Summary Judgment \(Press Release\)](#)

PRESS RELEASE: [Court Rules in FTC's Case That Made False Claims and Hid Publishing Fees](#)

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2019, le jugement tombe:

Amende de 50 millions de dollars

QUELQUES CHIFFRES GÉNÉRAUX

- 11'873 predatory journals from 996 publishers in sept 2014
- 420'000 articles published in 2014
- Geographic repartition of the authors
 - 60% from Asia,
 - 16% from Africa
 - 18% from western countries
- Repartition by discipline
 - Mainly engeneering, biomedecine and social sciences

Shen C, Björk B-C. 'Predatory' open access: a longitudinal study of article volumes and market characteristics. BMC Medicine. 2015;13: 230. doi:[10.1186/s12916-015-0469-2](https://doi.org/10.1186/s12916-015-0469-2)

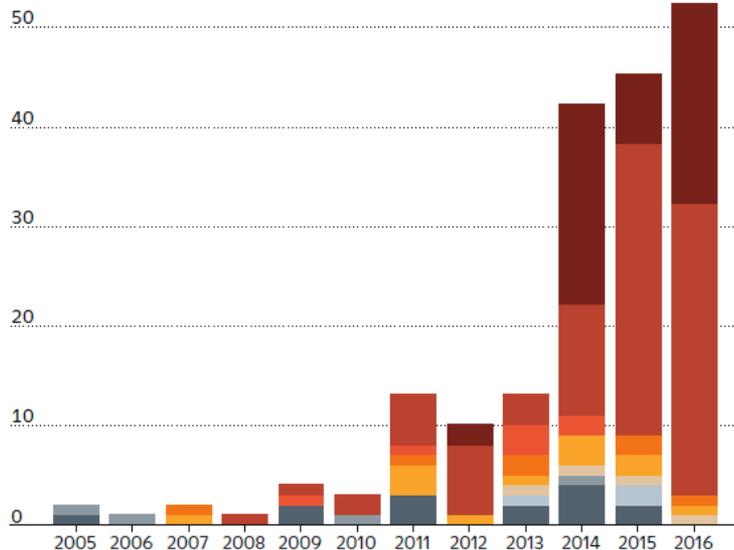
ET EN SUISSE ?

En Suisse (Amrein 2018):

- 222 articles par 146 chercheurs des universités suisses / HES entre 2005 et 2017
- Un phénomène qui s'accélère

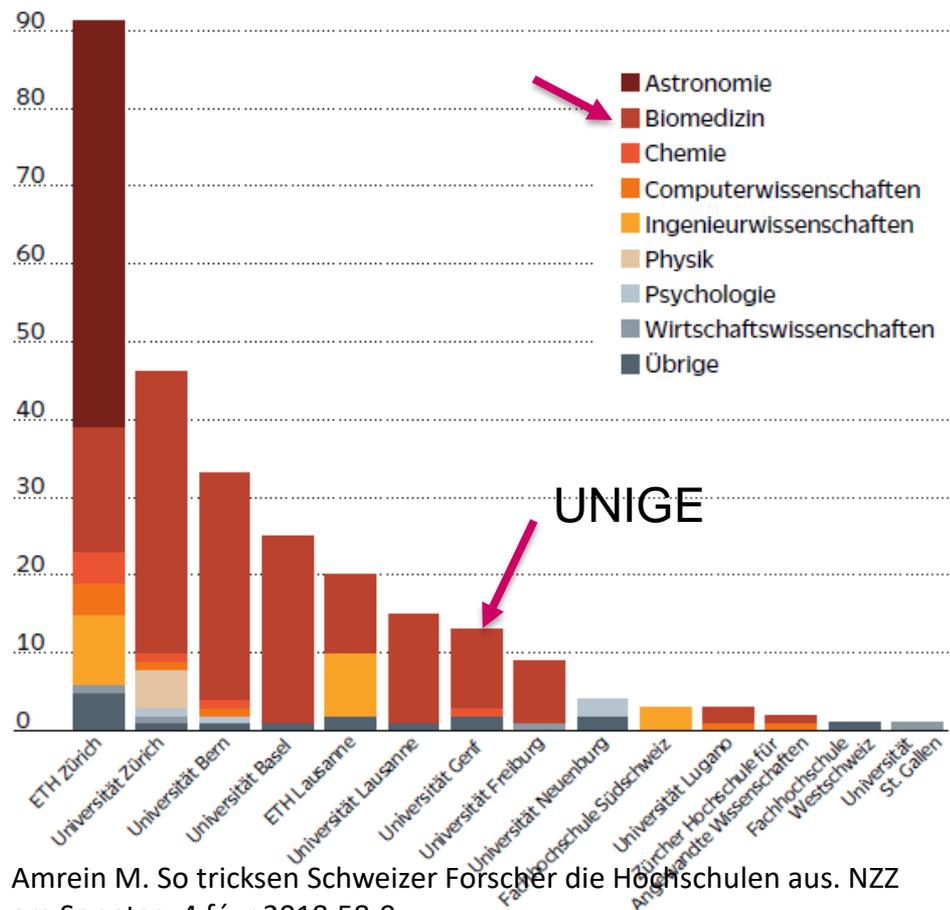
② Massiver Anstieg

Anzahl Artikel von Schweizer Forschern in Pseudo-Journals pro Jahr



① Universitäten vor Fachhochschulen

Anzahl Artikel in Pseudo-Journals pro Institution (2005–2017)



Amrein M. So tricken Schweizer Forscher die Hochschulen aus. NZZ am Sonntag. 4 févr 2018;58-9.

https://nzz.genios.de/document/NZZS_201802040228708140

POTENTIELLEMENT PROBLÉMATIQUE

- Pour la Science :
 - Difficulté de distinguer les articles de bonne/mauvaise qualité
 - Diminution de la qualité de la science
 - Diminution de la confiance en la science (en cas de scandale)
 - Presque impossible d'obtenir une rétraction (certains articles de très mauvaise qualité restent disponibles)
 - Gaspillage de ressources
 - Exploitation de ce système pour donner un "crédit scientifique" à des opinions



IF SOMETHING IS FORMATTED LIKE A SERIOUS SCIENTIFIC PAPER, IT CAN TAKE ME A WHILE TO REALIZE IT ISN'T ONE.

<https://www.xkcd.com/1847/>

POTENTIELLEMENT PROBLÉMATIQUE

- Pour le chercheur / son institution / financeur
 - **Manque de crédibilité**: la publication n'est pas reconnue comme un article scientifique de qualité (notamment car le peer review n'a pas eu lieu).
 - **Refus de son papier par d'autres journaux**
 - **Manque de visibilité**: ces journaux ne sont pas indexés dans les bases de données comme Web of Science ou Medline
 - **Absence de préservation long-terme**
 - **Domage à sa réputation**: les éditeurs prédateurs mettent souvent les contributeurs sur le site web en tant que membre du comité éditorial (sans demander). Le chercheur se retrouve associé à l'arnaque contre son gré, lui donne de la crédibilité.

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Journal Article

Causality in applied behavioural science: a call for transversal research in traffic medicine

Citation Vaucher P, Favrat B. *J. Forensic Res.* 2012; 4(Spec. Iss.): S1:004.

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DOI unavailable

PMID unavailable

Abstract SafetyLit NOTICE:

THIS ARTICLE WAS RETRIEVED BY THE AUTHORS FOR UNSATISFACTORY PEER REVIEWING AND INAPPROPRIATE ACCEPTANCE AS-IS by Journal of Forensic Research and OMICS publishing group.

At the authors' request (see correspondence below) this article has been removed from the journal publisher's (OMICS) website. The authors believe that although they submitted the report, it was published without sufficient peer review. This, the author believes, could have led to a lack of the improvements that are normally expected to occur as a manuscript flows through the review process. One of the authors requested that the article be removed from SafetyLit. As the article has been removed from the OMICS site and the doi number (10.4172/2157-7145.S1-004) now points to the publisher home page; SafetyLit will comply with the authors request by placing this notice or retraction. In doing so, we are complying with laws in the European Union that allow a "right to be forgotten" [Court of Justice, European Union C-131/12].

That said, we observe that records of the article remain in numerous places on the internet -- databases that list articles that have been cited in current research (Google Scholar, Web of Science, ResearchGate, etc.). Thus, users of SafetyLit and these other database services are likely to be frustrated when they encounter citing articles they cannot find. For that reason, we remove the article content (although this content existed for many months online and is still available in some corners of the internet) but not the article record. As with other bibliographic databases and publisher websites, we maintain the reference to the article and note that it was rescinded at the authors' request.

We believe that it is unfortunate that this interesting paper is lost to researchers. It raised challenging issues.

SAFETYLIT WEEKLY UPDATE

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L'échange d'emails avec le chercheur du CURML est disponible sur le [site](#)

Les démarches pour rectifier le tri sont très longues et fastidieuses...

COMMENT Y ÉCHAPPER ?



HOW TO UNMASK THEM ?

A wide array of **unethical business practices**, such as

- **Fraudulent claims**: about where they are indexed, impact factors
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- **Spam** emails, sometime overly flattering



Adapted from SNSF's FAQ
<https://oa100.snf.ch/en/faq-en/>

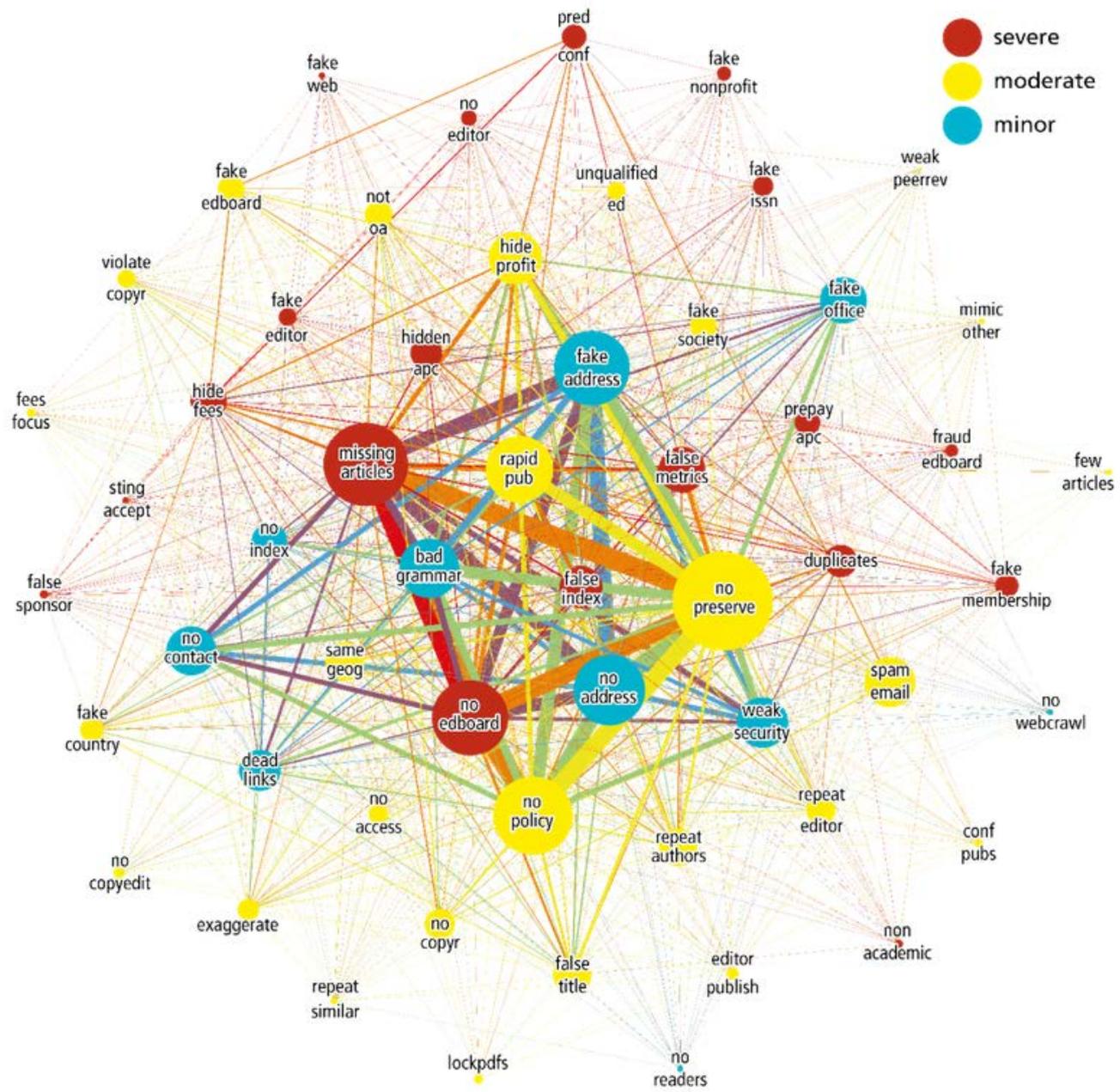


Fig 2 Co-occurrence network of Cabells Blacklist Violations

LISTES À DISPOSITION

○ Des **listes de journaux à éviter** (“Blacklists”)

• **Liste de Beall**

- controversée. fermée. Remise en ligne de manière avec mise à jour anonymes à plusieurs endroits sur le web)

• **Cabell’s Predatory Reports**

- <https://www2.cabells.com/>
- accessible à l’UNIGE depuis 2020
- >13’000 journaux, plus de 1’000 en attente d’évaluation

CABELLS
Predatory Reports

○ Des **listes blanches**

• **Directory of Open Access Journals** (doaj.org/)



- “4 stages of independent and objective, manual review”



- Le Sceau pour les journaux les plus rigoureux et ouverts

OUTILS À DISPOSITION

- **Bases de données**: vérifier si le journal y est indexé
 - Web of Science
 - Pubmed (indexed for MEDLINE !)
- **Experience** / feedback d'auteurs/ de collègues :
 - Quality Open access Market ([QOAM](#))
- Une **checkliste** pour vérifier les affirmations, la qualité du journal et se poser les bonnes questions
 - <https://thinkchecksubmit.org/>



POUR RÉSUMER

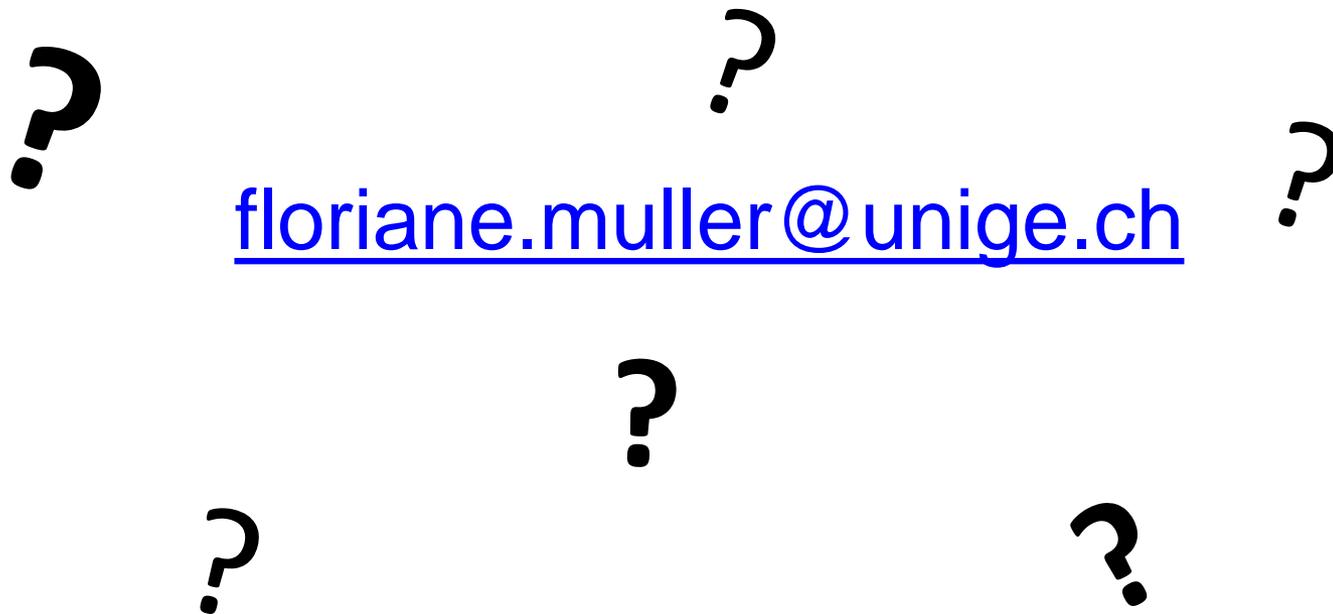
“Predatory journals and publishers are entities that **prioritize self-interest at the expense of scholarship** and are characterized by **false or misleading information**, deviation from **best editorial and publication practices**, a **lack of transparency**, and/or the use of **aggressive and indiscriminate solicitation practices**.”

Grudniewicz, A. (*et al.*), Nature 576, 210-212 (2019)

Doi: [10.1038/d41586-019-03759-y](https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-019-03759-y)

- Rester vigilant,
- Vérifier leurs affirmations
- *Ignorer* les sollicitations douteuses

Merci pour votre attention

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