

Rethinking biomedical scientific publishing: What is expected of each player to keep the wheel spinning

Fernando Fernandez-Llimos

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Center for Pharmacy Practice Innovation (CPPI) Seminar

Rethinking biomedical scientific publishing: What is expected of each player to keep the wheel spinning - 9/27/2021 Provided by Center for Pharmacy Practice Innovation/Department of Pharmacotherapy and Outcomes Science

Speaker(s): Fernando Fernandez-Llimos, M.Pharm., MBA, Ph.D

Topic:

CPPI invites various health care professionals from around the country and globe to speak on issues relating to innovation in the health care space.

Please contact the Center for Pharmacy Practice Innovation to request a meeting password by clicking here

Please click here to join the webinar

Meeting ID: : 972 0552 6057

Purpose or Objectives: At the conclusion of this activity, the participant will be able to:

- 1 Review changes in health care delivery that likely impact pharmacy practice.
- 2 Describe current trends in contemporary pharmacy practice as they relate to interprofessional collaboration.
- 3 Discuss practice innovations designed to improve health outcomes.
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- 2 Describe current trends in contemporary pharmacy practice as they relate to interprofessional collaboration.
- 3 Discuss practice innovations designed to improve health outcomes.
- 4 Discuss role delineation for pharmacists on the interprofessional health care team.
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- 3 Discuss practice innovations designed to improve health outcomes.
- 4 Discuss role delineation for pharmacists on the interprofessional health care team.

Date/Time: 9/27/2021 12:00:00 PM

Accreditation:





In support of improving patient care, VCU Health Continuing Education is jointly accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), to provide continuing education for the healthcare team.

Credit Designation(s):

0.75 ANCC contact hours.

Æ

This activity provides 0.75 contact hours of continuing education credit. ACPE Universal Activity Number (UAN): Pharmacist: JA4008237-0000-21-044-L01-P Technician: JA4008237-0000-21-044-L01-T

NOTE FOR PHARMACISTS: Upon closing of the online evaluation, VCU Health Continuing Education will upload the pharmacy-related continuing education information to CPE Monitor within 60 days. Per ACPE rules, VCU Health Continuing Education does not have access nor the ability to upload credits requested after the evaluation closes. It is the responsibility of the pharmacist or pharmacy technician to provide the correct information [NABP ePID and DOB (in MMDD format)] in order to receive credit for participating in a continuing education activity.

Disclosure of Commercial Support:

We acknowledge that no commercial or in-kind support was provided for this activity.

Disclosure of Financial Relationships:

The following planners, moderators or speakers have the following financial relationship(s) with commercial interests to disclose:

Name of individual	Individual's role in activity	Name of commercial interest/Nature of relationship		
Dave Dixon, PharmD, FACC, FCCP, FNLA, BCACP, BCPS, CDE, CLS	Activity Director	Contracted Research-Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica GmbH - 08/04/2021		
Fernando Fernandez-Llimos, M.Pharm., MBA, Ph.D	Faculty			
Dana Burns, DNP	Planning Committee	Nothing to disclose - 09/29/2020		
Teresa Salgado	Planning Committee	Nothing to disclose - 09/29/2020		
Evan Sisson, Pharm.D., MSHA, BCACP, CDE, FAADE	Planning Committee	Nothing to disclose - 05/18/2021		
Madeleine Wagner, BA	Planning Committee			





Conflicts of interest



Fernandez-Llimos is editor-in-chief of **Pharmacy Practice**. His research interests are drug information with special emphasis on evidence synthesis and in design and assessing clinical pharmacy services.

I'm a pharmacy practice researcher



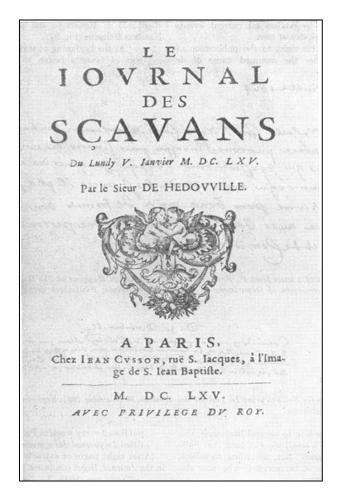


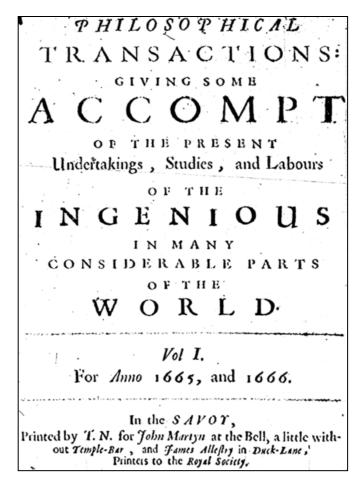
Outline

- What is 'scientific publishing'?
- Who are the players involved in 'scientific publishing'?
- What are the problems in the publication process?
- What are the problems in the publication process? Solutions?
- Wrap-up message









The Royal Society authorized Henry Oldenburg to publish at his own expense a monthly collection of scientific papers communicated to him either by members of the society or by foreign scientists.

- Journal des Sçavans (5-Ene-1665)
- Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society (6-Marzo-1665)





- •The aim of the new publication [Philosophical Transactions] was to create a public record of original contributions to knowledge and to encourage scientists to "speak" directly to one another.
- •By providing intellectual credit publicly for innovative claims in natural philosophy, the journal encouraged scientists to disclose knowledge that they might otherwise have kept secret.

We publish to disseminate scientific findings and knowledge



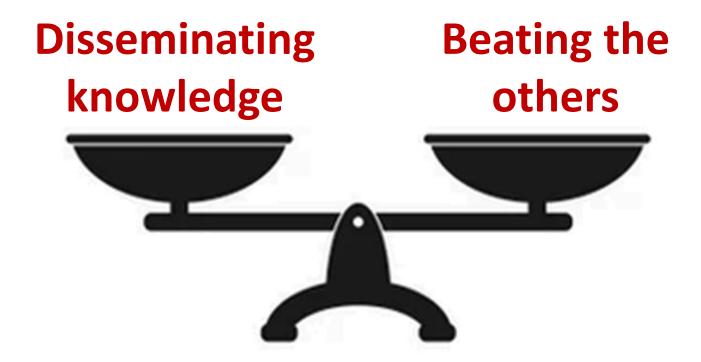


- •The Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society created a sense of competition among scientists to be the first to publish a new scientific finding, an incentive that is continued in modern scientific journals.
- •If the journal is a prominent one, publication endows the author with an extra measure of prestige.

So, we publish to beat the others !!!!



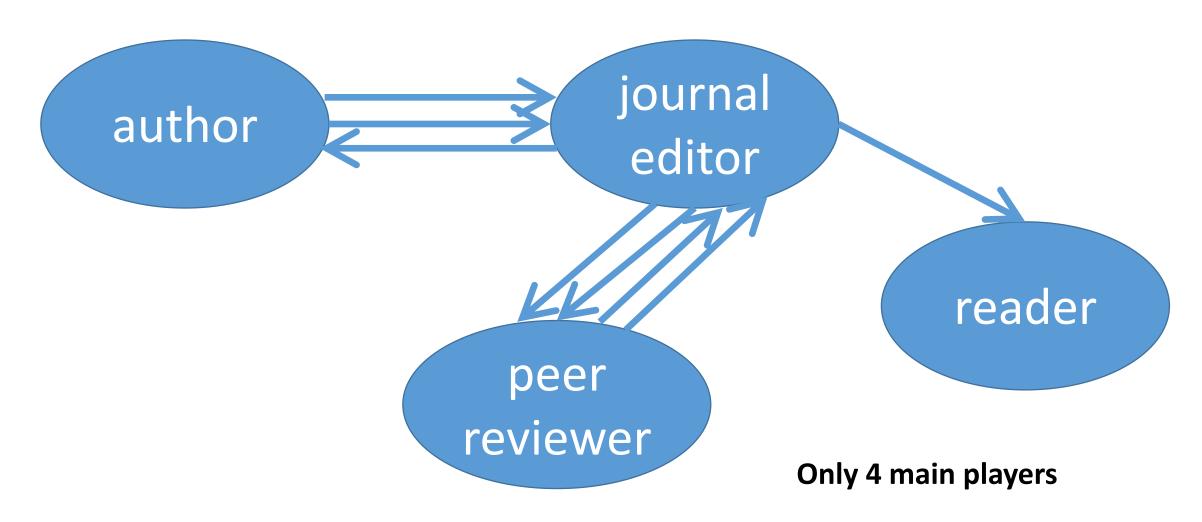








Who are the players involved?







Who are the players involved?

- Authors:
 - Researchers in the area interested in reporting findings
- Editors:
 - Researchers in the area interested in publishing scientific journals
- Peer reviewers:
 - Researchers in the area interested in contributing to others' papers
- Readers:
 - Researchers in the area interested in receiving scientific knowledge

The same people playing four different roles

ONE player with FOUR roles





Who are the players involved?



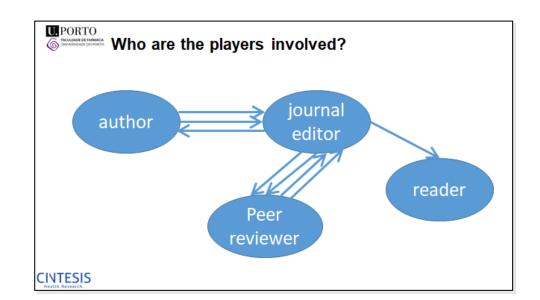


Complains:

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- Peer reviewers
 - Too many invitations to review
 - Poor quality manuscripts
- Editors
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 - Low Impact Factor
- Readers

Health. Research.

- Poor quality articles
- Article not citing my previous article



ONE player with FOUR roles



We publish too much

Biomedical research: increasing value, reducing waste

Global biomedical and public health research involves billions of dollars and millions of people. In 2010, expenditure on life sciences (mostly biomedical) research was US\$240 billion.3 The USA is the largest funder, with about \$70 billion in commercial and \$40 billion in governmental and non-profit funding annually,4 representing slightly more than 5% of US health-care expenditure. Although this vast enterprise has led to substantial health improvements, many more gains are possible if the waste and inefficiency in the ways that biomedical research is chosen, designed, done, analysed, regulated, managed, disseminated, and reported can be addressed.

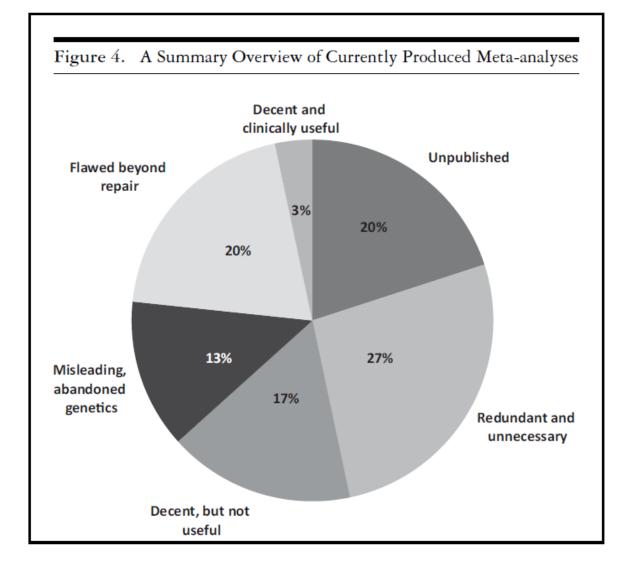




We publish too much

The Mass Production of Redundant, Misleading, and Conflicted Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses

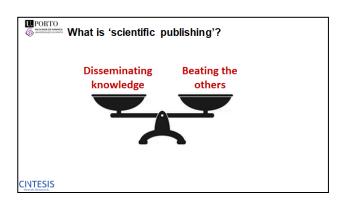
JOHN P.A. IOANNIDIS







We publish too much: Why?





"PUBLISH OR PERISH"

Today there is much being written in the various scientific fields by researchers who must "publish or perish." In order to receive grants or promotions it is necessary for them to keep their names in print over articles that show their capacity for learning and writing. Although they may be engaged in full time teaching, it is mandatory that they conduct research and report it in the literature.





We publish too much: Why?



Publishing as a prerequisite and not as a merit



4. At least one **original publication** that includes some of the results of your doctoral thesis. If the manuscript has already been accepted but has not been published yet, you must attach a letter from the journal editor indicating the title and author(s) of the work. You must also include the quality indicators of the publication.

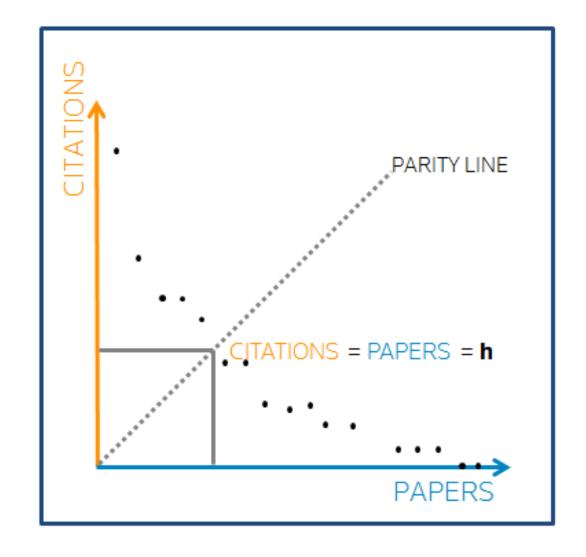




We publish too much: Why?



The more, the better







• Citations: a misleading metric. The Lancet Res Med case study

AU	TI	PD	VI	IP PO	6 Cited in 2020
Benjafield, et al.	Estimation of the global prevalence and burden of obstructive sleep apnoea: a literature-based analysis	2019	7	8687-0	s98 176
Reck, et al.	Atezolizumab plus bevacizumab and chemotherapy in non-small-cell lung cancer (IMpower150): key subgroup analyses of patients with EGFR mutations or baseline liver metastases in a randomised, openlabel phase 3 trial	2019	7	5387-4	152
Lynch, et al.	Diagnostic criteria for idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis: a Fleischner Society White Paper	2018	6	2138-	.53 110
Schauwvlieghe, et al.	Invasive aspergillosis in patients admitted to the intensive care unit with severe influenza: a retrospective cohort study	2018	6	10782-7	92 104
Matthay, et al.	Treatment with allogeneic mesenchymal stromal cells for moderate to severe acute respiratory distress syndrome (START study): a randomised phase 2a safety trial	2019	7	2154-:	.62 103
Fleischmann-Struzek, et al.	. The global burden of paediatric and neonatal sepsis: a systematic review	2018	6	3223-2	30 71
Calfee, et al.	Acute respiratory distress syndrome subphenotypes and differential response to simvastatin: secondary analysis of a randomised controlled trial	2018	6	9691-0	98 70
Bui, et al.	Childhood predictors of lung function trajectories and future COPD risk: a prospective cohort study from the first to the sixth decade of life	2018	6	7535-	64
Bafadhel, et al.	Predictors of exacerbation risk and response to budesonide in patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease: a post-hoc analysis of three randomised trials	2018	6	2117-:	.26 62
Floyd, et al.	The global tuberculosis epidemic and progress in care, prevention, and research: an overview in year 3 of the End TB era	2018	6	4299-3	60





Citations: a misleading metric. The Lancet Res Med case study

Correspondence

Mar 13, 2020

Guidelines

Research

Education

Are patients with hypertension and diabetes mellitus at increased risk for COVID-19 infection?

The most distinctive comorbidities of 32 non-survivors from a group of 52 intensive care unit patients with novel coronavirus disease

of ACE2.5 ACE2 can also be increased by thiazolidinediones and ibuprofen. These data suggest that ACE2 expression is increased in diabetes and treatment with ACE inhibitors and ARBs increases ACE2 expression. Consequently, the increased expression of ACE2 would facilitate infection with COVID-19. We therefore hypothesise that diabetes and hypertension treatment with ACE2-stimulating drugs increases the risk of developing

We declare no competing interests. Lei Fang, George Karakiulakis,

*Michael Roth michael.roth@usb.ch Pulmonary Cell Research and Pneumology Department of Biomedicine and Internal Medicine, University Hospital Basel,

CH-4031 Basel, Switzerland (LF, MR); and Department of Pharmacology, School Medicine, Aristotle University of Thessalo Thessaloniki, Greece (GK)

Yang X, Yu Y, Xu J, et al. Clinical course outcomes of critically ill patients with SARS-CoV-2 pneumonia in Wuhan, Ch

ESC The ESC **European Society** of Cardiology European Society of Cardiology > Councils > Council on Hypertension > News Council on **Hypertension** About Education **Events** News **Publications** Become a member of the ESC Council on Hypertension

Position Statement of the ESC Council on Hypertension on ACE-Inhibitors and **Angiotensin Receptor Blockers**

Journals

13 Mar 2020

Based on initial reports from China, and subsequent evidence that arterial hypertension may be associated with increased risk of mortality in hospitalized COVID-19 infected subjects, hypotheses have been put forward to suggest a potential adverse effects of angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors (ACE-i) or Angiotensin Receptor Blockers (ARBs). It has been suggested, especially on social media sites, that these commonly used drugs may increase both the risk of infection and the severity of SARS-CoV2. The concern arises from the observation that, similar to the coronavirus causing SARS, the COVID-19 virus binds to a specific enzyme called ACE2 to infect cells, and ACE2 levels are increased following treatment with ACE-i and ARBs.

Because of the social media-related amplification, patients taking these drugs for their high blood pressure and their doctors have become increasingly concerned, and, in some cases, have stopped taking their ACE-I or ARB

This speculation about the safety of ACF-i or ARB treatment in relation to COVID-19 does not have a sound

Mar 11, 2020

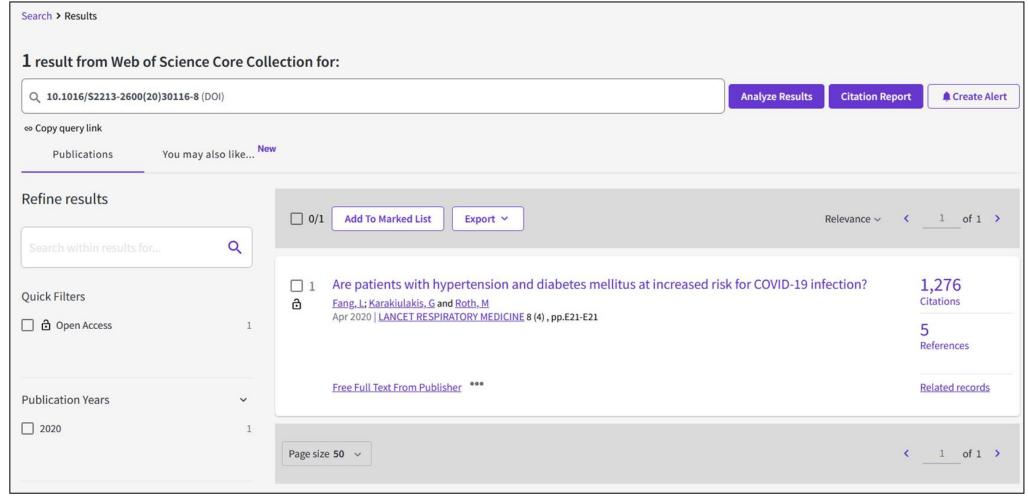


https://www.escardio.org/Councils/Council-on-Hypertension-(CHT)/News/positionstatement-of-the-esc-council-on-hypertension-on-ace-inhibitors-and-ang

Congresses & Events



Citations: a misleading metric. The Lancet Res Med case study







- We publish too much: solutions?
- Academic institutions should have their own assessment systems not based on other processes assessment systems.
 - Publishing should be an additional merit and not a prerequisite

- Academic institutions and funders should evaluate academic and researchers by their best contributions, not by the number of contributions or the citation metrics.
 - · Some assessment processes ask for the five best papers in the last five years.

Solutions mainly associated to university policymakers





We publish too much: solutions?

Poor international collaboration in pharmacy practice

Publish less, publish better

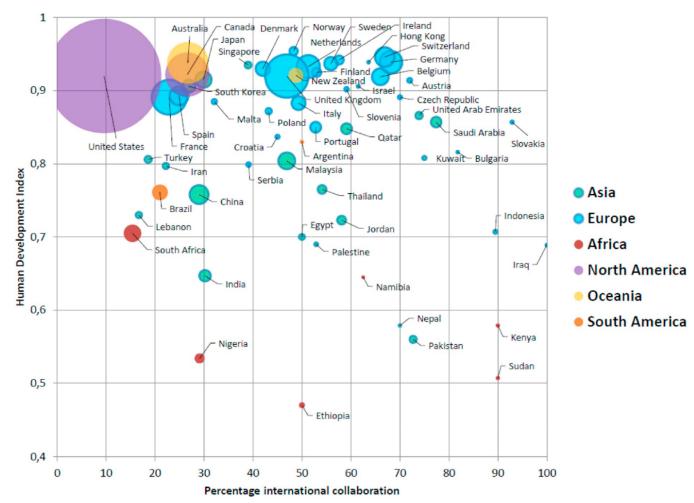


Fig. 1. The relations between human development index and international collaboration output.

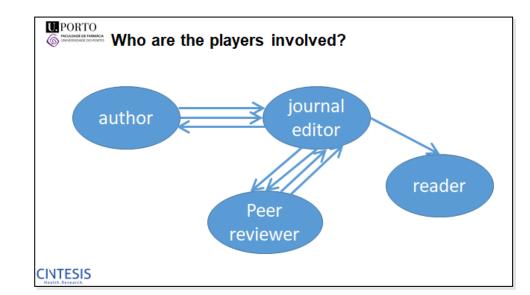




Complains:

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Health. Research



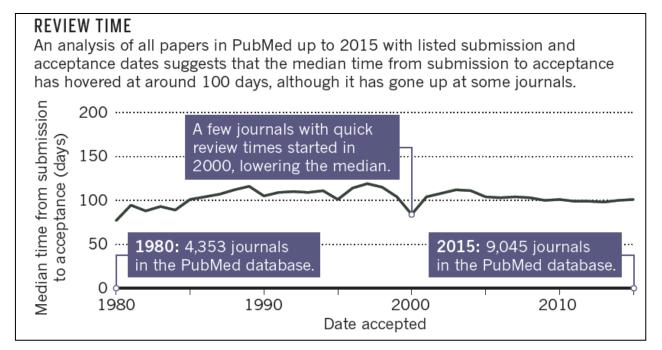
ONE player with FOUR roles

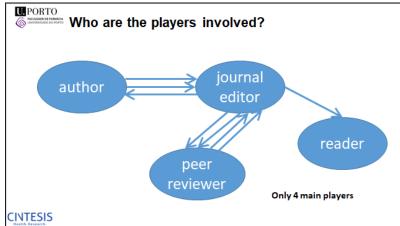
 Poor quality articles Article not citing my previous article



We want to publish quickly



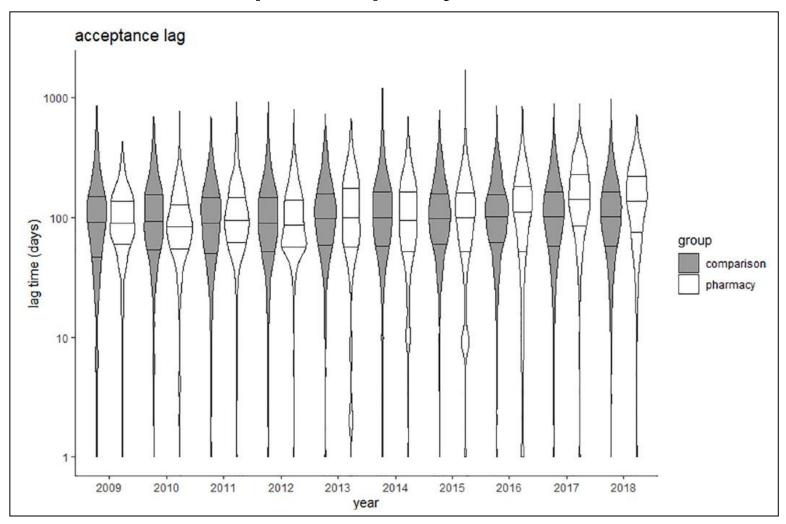


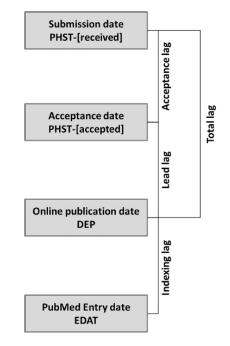


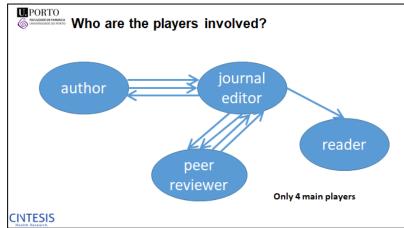




We want to publish quickly



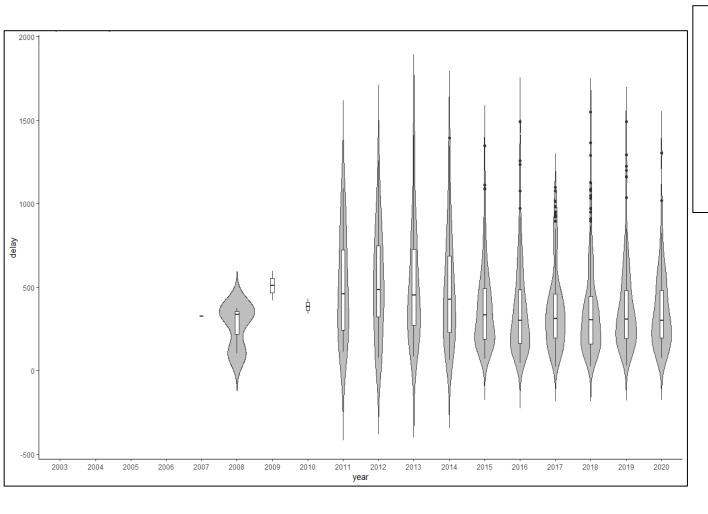




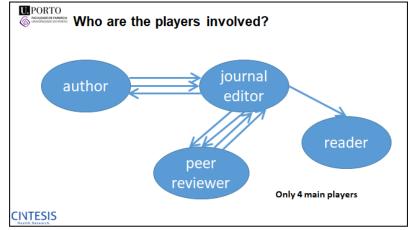




We want to publish quickly



The median time from search to submission was 191 days (IQR 84–370; minimum –339 and maximum 1358), which represents approximately 6.4 months, with a maximum lag time of 1358 days (45.3 months). A total of 42 (5.0%) NMAs had their search updated after submission (eg, as requested by editors or reviewers during revision), thus presenting a negative value on the lag time.







We want to publish quickly: solutions?

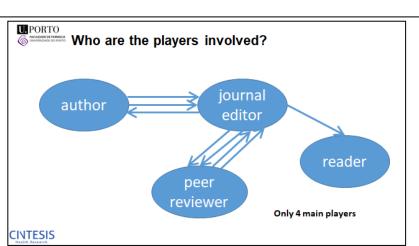
Version 1. ArXiv. Preprint. 2021 Sep 17: arXiv:2109.08633v1.

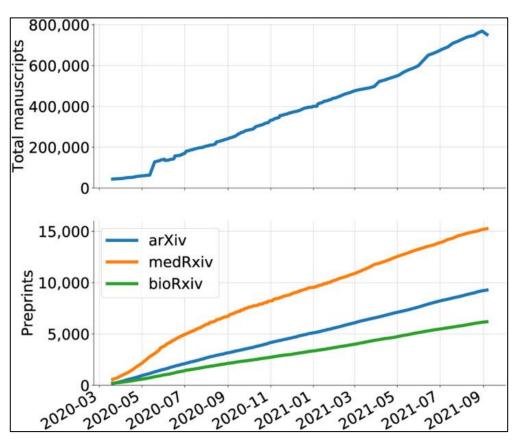
PMCID: PMC8452106
PMID: 34545336

This article is a preprint.
Preprints have not been peer reviewed.
To learn more about preprints in PMC see: NIH Preprint Pilot.

An Open-Publishing Response to the COVID-19 Infodemic

Halie M. Rando, 1,2,3 Simina M. Boca, 4 Lucy D'Agostino McGowan, 5 Daniel S. Himmelstein, 3,6 Michael P. Robson, 7 Vincent Rubinetti, 1,3 Ryan Velazquez, 8 COVID-19 Review Consortium, Casey S. Greene, 1,2,3,9 and Anthony Gitter 10,11









We want to publish quickly: solutions?

Benefits of the preprints:

Benefit #1: You are likely to receive higher citation counts

Benefit #2: You receive more exposure with a preprint

Benefit #3: Your work sees the world quicker

Benefit #4: Your article may improve

Benefit #5: It's a place for "unpublishable" data

Benefit #6: You can publish your research with open access for free

Benefit #7: Your work gets published when you are still excited about it!

Scholarly scientific publishing =















Beating the

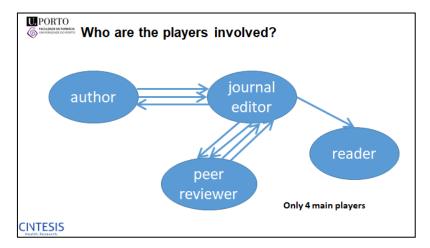
others

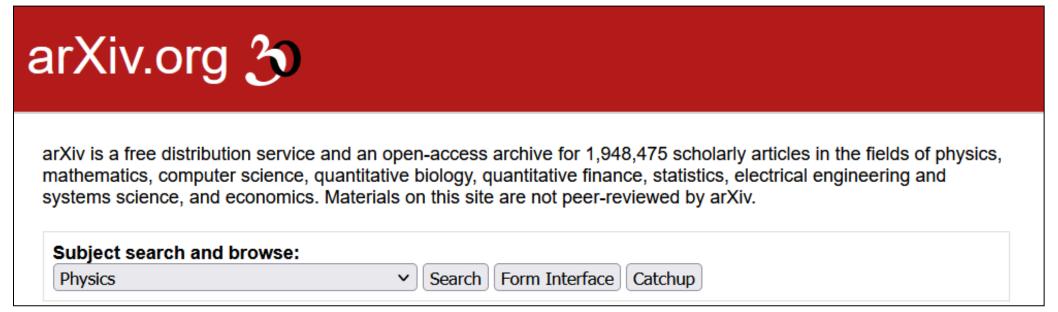






We want to publish quickly: solutions?

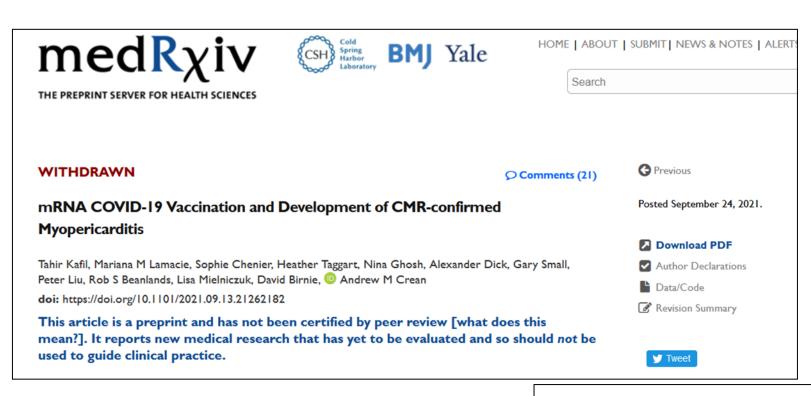


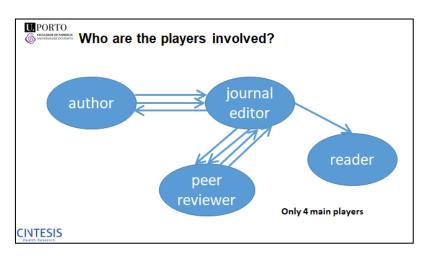






We want to publish quickly: solutions?





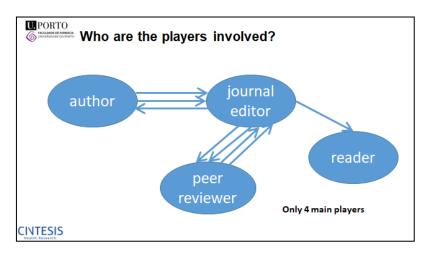
Preprints should not be used for clinical decisions or for evidence-generation

In summary, the authors have withdrawn this manuscript because of a major error pertaining to the quoted incidence data. Therefore, the authors do not wish this work to be cited as reference for the project. If you have any questions, please contact the corresponding author.





We want to publish quickly: solutions?



The Linux Law:

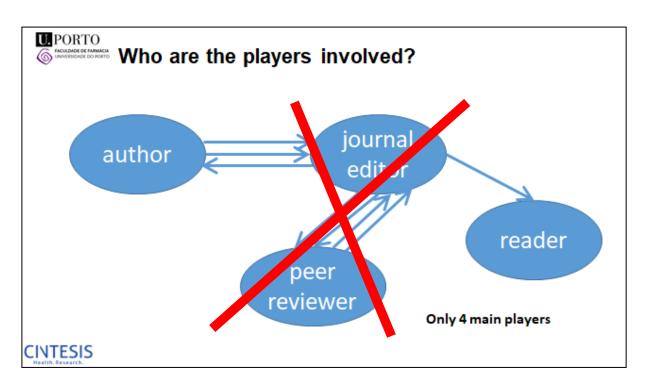
Given enough eyeballs, all bugs are shallow

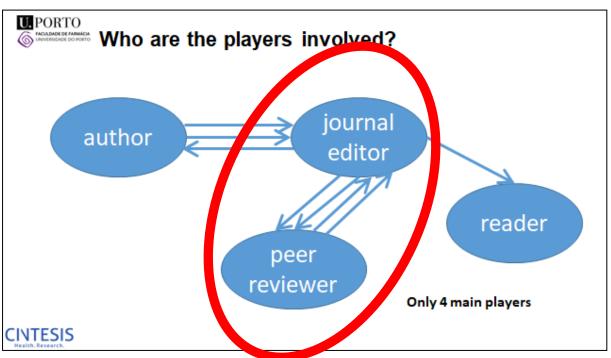
(Eric S. Raymond)





We want to publish quickly: solutions?





Kill the peer review process

Reinforce the peer review process





We want to publish quickly: solutions?

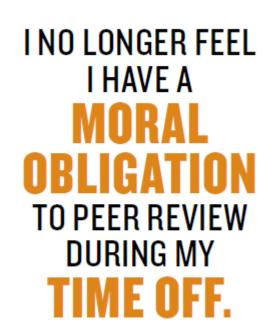
WORLD VIEW A personal take on events



Why I said no to peer review this summer

Taking a well-earned break will benefit your productivity in the long run, says **Jennifer Rohn**.

- I'm at the end of the semester
- I'm about to go on vacation
- I'm on vacation
- I've just returned from vacation
- I'm at the beginning of the semester



- Rohn J. Why I said no to peer review this summer. Nature. 2019;572(7770):417. doi:10.1038/d41586-019-02470-2
- Fernandez-Llimos F, Salgado TM, Tonin FS; Pharmacy Practice 2019 peer reviewers . How many manuscripts should I peer review per year?. Pharm Pract (Granada). 2020;18(1):1804. doi:10.18549/PharmPract.2020.1.1804





We want to publish quickly: solutions?

$$total_reviewers = (R*A) + (R*A*T) + (R*A*T*T) + \dots + (R*A*T^N)$$

$$total_reviewers = \sum_{1}^{N} R * A * (T)^{N-1}$$

And the number of articles published will be:

$$published = A*(1-T) + A*T*(1-T) + A*T*T*(1-T) + \dots + A*T^{N-1}*(1-T)$$

$$published = \sum_{1}^{N} A * T^{N-1} * (1-T)$$

So, the total number of required peer reviewers per published article will be:

$$reviewers_per_article_published = \frac{R * A * \sum_{1}^{N} T^{N-1}}{A * (1-T) * \sum_{1}^{N} T^{N-1}}$$

$$reviewers_per_article_published = \frac{R}{(1-T)}$$

A= articles received R= reviewers per article T= rejection rate

$$reviewers_per_article_published = \frac{R}{(1-T)}$$

80% rejection rate 3 reviewers per manuscript

$$articles_{to_{review}} = \frac{Articles_published(by_{the_{team}})}{Num_team_members} * 15$$





Complains:

Authors:

- Too long editorial process
- Too much desk rejection
- Bad peer reviewers and poor comments
- Low Impact Factors in my area
- Too high APCs

Peer reviewers

- Too many invitations to review
- Poor quality manuscripts

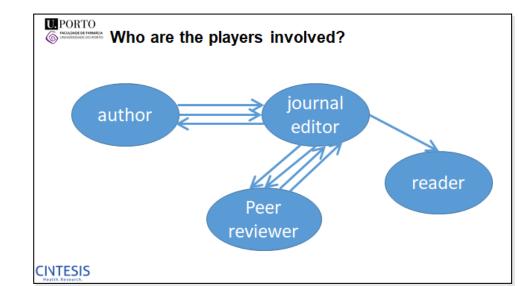
Editors

- Poor quality manuscripts
- Few peer reviewers accepting invitations
- Many authors complaining about the editorial process duration
- Low Impact Factor

Readers

Health, Research,

Poor quality articles



ONE player with FOUR roles

Article not citing my previous article



Low Impact Factor journals

$$IF_{2020} = \frac{cites_{2018} + cites_{2019}}{articles_{2018} + articles_{2019}}$$

PERSONAL DISCLAIMER



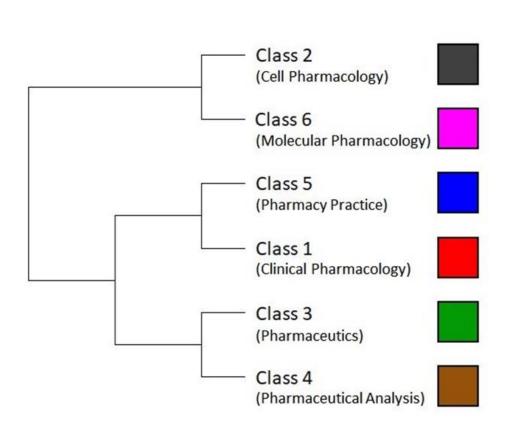
General Recommendation

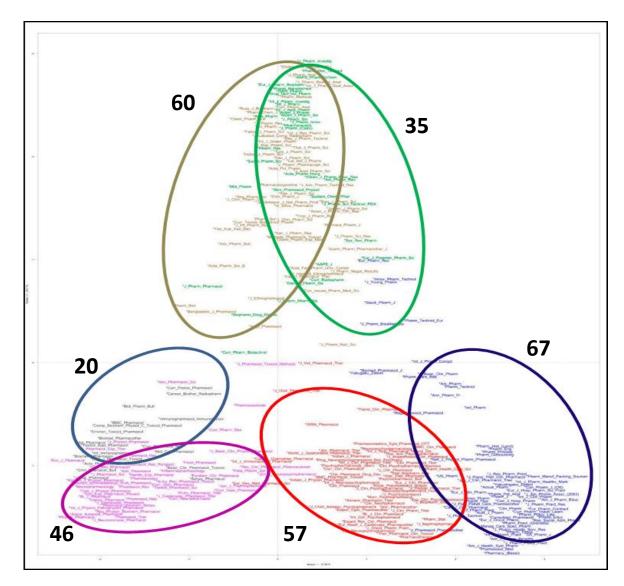
 Do not use journal-based metrics, such as Journal Impact Factors, as a surrogate measure of the quality of individual research articles, to assess an individual scientist's contributions, or in hiring, promotion, or funding decisions.





Low Impact Factor journals









Low Impact Factor journals

	Area		Impact Factor - JCR 2016			
Class		N. of journals	Journals with IF n (%)	Median (IQR)	Range (min max.)	
2	Cell Pharmacology	20	13 (65.0)	2.76 (1.95 – 3.51)	1.48 - 4.58	
6	Molecular Pharmacology	46	32 (69.6)	2.89(2.40 - 4.70)	1.44 - 17.89	
1	Clinical Pharmacology	57	35 (61.4)	2.44(1.57 - 3.41)	0.44 - 7.29	
5	Pharmacy Practice	67	10 (14.9)	1.40(1.01 - 2.20)	0.32 - 2.30	
3	Pharmaceutics	35	21 (60.0)	2.46(1.98 - 3.70)	0.25 - 4.56	
4	Pharmaceutical Analysis	60	16 (26.6)	0.75(0.59 - 1.83)	0.30 - 6.01	
	Total	285	127 (44.6)	2.42 (1.67 – 3.38)	0.25 - 17.89	

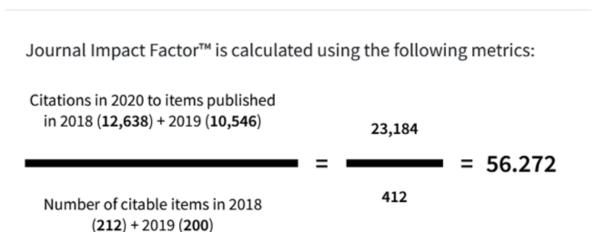
Kruskal-Wallis p=0.000003

IF: Impact Factor; IQR: Interquartile range; JCR: Journal Citation Reports





Low Impact Factor journals: Solutions?



The right to choose, the responsibility to choose carefully.

TA	IF(2020)	# articles 2018+2019	increase by 1 citation
Am J Health Syst Pharm	2.637	333	0.003
Am J Pharm Educ	2.047	299	0.003
Eur J Hosp Pharm Sci Pract	1.652	141	0.007
Int J Clin Pharm	2.054	350	0.003
J Am Pharm Assoc (2003)	2.217	244	0.004
J Manag Care Spec Pharm	2.903	288	0.003
Regul Toxicol Pharmacol	3.271	468	0.002
Res Social Adm Pharm	3.336	318	0.003
Saudi Pharm J	4.330	309	0.003
Yakugaku Zasshi	0.302	391	0.003
Lancet	79.321	539	0.002
N Engl J Med	91.245	649	0.002
JAMA	56.272	412	0.002





Low Impact Factor journals: Solutions?

Pharmacy practice journals without Impact Factor					
Actual Pharm	Int J Pharm Compd	Pharm Eng			
Am J Pharm Benefits	Int J Pharm Healthc Mark	Pharm Hist			
Ann Pharm Fr	Int J Pharm Pract	Pharm Hist (Lond)			
Ars Pharm	J Basic Clin Pharm	Pharm J			
Aust J Pharm	J Pain Palliat Care Pharmacother	Pharm Manuf Packing Sourcer			
Biomed Pharmacol J	J Pharm Bioallied Sci	Pharm Outsourcing			
Can J Clin Pharmacol	J Pharm Health Serv Res	Pharm Pat Anal			
Can J Hosp Pharm	J Pharm Policy Pract	Pharm Policy Law			
Can Pharm J (Ott)	J Pharm Pract	Pharm Pract (Granada)			
Clin Pharm	J Pharm Pract Res	Pharm Process			
Consult Pharm	J Pharm Technol	Pharm Technol			
Curr Pharm Teach Learn	J Pharmacol Pharmacother	Pharm Technol Eur			
Eur J Clin Pharm	J Popul Ther Clin Pharmacol	Pharm Ther			
Eur J Oncol Pharm	J Res Pharm Pract	Pharm Times			
Eur Pharm Contract	J Young Pharm	Pharmaceut Med			
Eur Pharm Ver	Jpn J Clin Pharmacol Ther	Pharmacy (Basel)			
Hosp Pharm	Natl J Physiol Pharm Pharmacol	SA Pharm J			
Ind Pharm	Pharm Care Res	US Pharm			
Innov Pharm Technol	Pharm Educ	Yakushigaku Zasshi			





Wrap-up message

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Editorial

Authors, peer reviewers, and readers: What is expected from each player in collaborative publishing?

Fernando FERNANDEZ-LLIMOS Pharmacy Practice 2020 peer reviewers.

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- "The more manuscripts you agree to review, the faster you'll have your own manuscripts published".
- "The more trash you put into the system, the more trash you will have to consume".
- "The more you take care of your scientific area, the more your scientific area will take care of you".

