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# Incessant Solicitations: You're not Alone!

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**Received Date:** September 09, 2022

**Published Date:** October 12, 2022

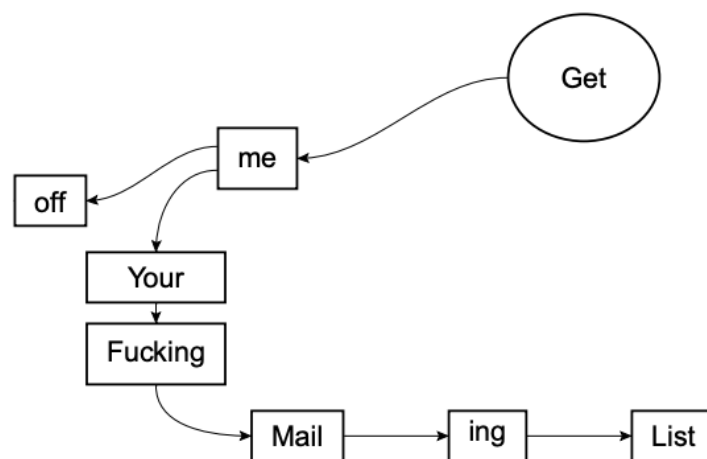
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Identifying interesting clinical cases in general practice is not easy, because every case is potentially interesting... Nevertheless, if you want to publish anything, there are specialized journals in this field, like this one with Iris Publishers, or with other publishers such as Science Domain International [1], Acad Wise [2], Medtext Publications [3], Bentham Publishers [4], European Society of Medicine, JSciMed Central, Sci Vision, Juniper Publisher, Acquaint Publishers, Austin Publishers, Row Archives (among a very long list, not exhaustive - see the lists of Beall or Cabell's International) [5,6,7].

What can we do in practice in these situations? Here are 10 suggestions.

- First, ask yourself if you are sufficiently well known [8] in your field for journals to ask you for papers, invite you to their conferences, or be eager to write a book about you (via Index of Sciences for example). Do you deserve to be treated as if you were a Nobel Prize winner? [9].
- Secondly, you should know that if you are asked to share your expertise in articles or conferences, you are normally invited for free, or even paid! I know this article is aimed at researchers, who are used to paying to publish - and then paying to read what they have published - but in the rest of the normal world, you do not have to pay to work.
- Third, if you have inadvertently confused a predatory journal [10] with another reputable one, find out why the review was so quick, with so few comments, while usually the ONLY THING you are not required to correct is your surname (yet you will be asked to check in the proofs).

- Fourthly, observe the behavior of reviewer #2. If he or she behaves like a normal human being, this is frighteningly suspicious (as everyone knows, reviewer #2 is normally a demon summoned in a satanic pentacle on a full moon by the editor's cursed black cat).
- Fifth, if you only communicate with your editor by email, this is not a good sign. Serious publishing usually involves spending several hours on a site that makes you forever loathe repeating a research experience (it's a selection method). Similarly, if the site you are publishing on looks like it was coded in 1--4 on an Amstrad, it may make you nostalgic, but it is not a very good sign.
- Sixth, beware of the tricks that predatory journals use: fake ISSN numbers, fake bibliometric indicators... and even for some, a few articles referenced on Google Scholar or PubMed via PMC. In any case, if you think you are publishing in a predatory journal, don't do it. It will spoil your paper and possibly make it unusable for another journal because of the anti-plagiarism control... At this stage you are in doubt, so call [11] friends who will help you [12-15].
- Seventh, the corollary is that if you are invited to review for a predatory journal, do not hesitate to inform the authors by email or via their Facebook... If they are honest, they will not go any further (except it's a hoax - beware of hoaxes like this paper). And obviously, don't hesitate to ask them politely but firmly to remove you from their fucking mailing list [16] (Figure 1).



**Figure 1:** Get me off your fucking mailing list (with thanks to David Mazières, Eddy Kohler and Peter Vanplew) [10].

- Eighth, don't pay... At least not that much. Negotiate! Divide the price by 100. Explain that you can't afford \$1000, but you're willing to pay \$25! I negotiated from \$919 to \$39 [17] for *J Clin Med Current Res* [2], and for this one I got it for \$30. A great deal. And you could have some funny and surrealist exchanges, almost worth that amount [18].
- And if your negotiation succeeds, you are obviously facing a predatory journal. So, if you're publishing the article of a lifetime, the result of untold hours of night and weekend work, countless manipulations and sweat-coded statistical tests on R... don't publish.
- Ninth, check the site to see if your article has already been published in PDF before you've even paid on Paypal... Sometimes, by the time you've negotiated the price, your article has already been published. It's not even worth paying anymore; this was the case for *J Med Public Health* [3].
- Tenth, I know that's a lot of instructions... but in any case, you need to stay relaxed during this process. You will be afraid that everything will stop but it won't: the nonsense will continue, because the person you are writing to doesn't care what you write, he just wants to rip you off. So don't panic. Panic is useless, it only leads to fear. And fear is the path to the dark side. Fear leads to anger. Anger leads to hate. Hate leads to suffering. And then you know the story: we end up dressing in black and ravaging half the galaxy - no thanks, not for me.

## Acknowledgement

The author would like to thank Dagmar Haller and the SSMIG Congress for their invitation and kind hospitality in the beautiful town of Davos from 22 to 24 September 2022, where we spent

some short but beautiful hours with my mum. Thanks also to Sabine Schwab for welcoming us with care and for finding us a place for the convivial evening, to Philippe Binder and his wife for the friendly exchanges, to Johanna Maria Sommer and the other early morning runners on Friday morning... finally, thanks to all the people who made this trip so pleasant. May my presentation distract listeners from predatory journals.

## Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts of interest.

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