

ETHICS AND SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY:

UNCOVERING FRAUD IN SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATION

MARJORIE BARDIAU
CHRISTOPHE DONY

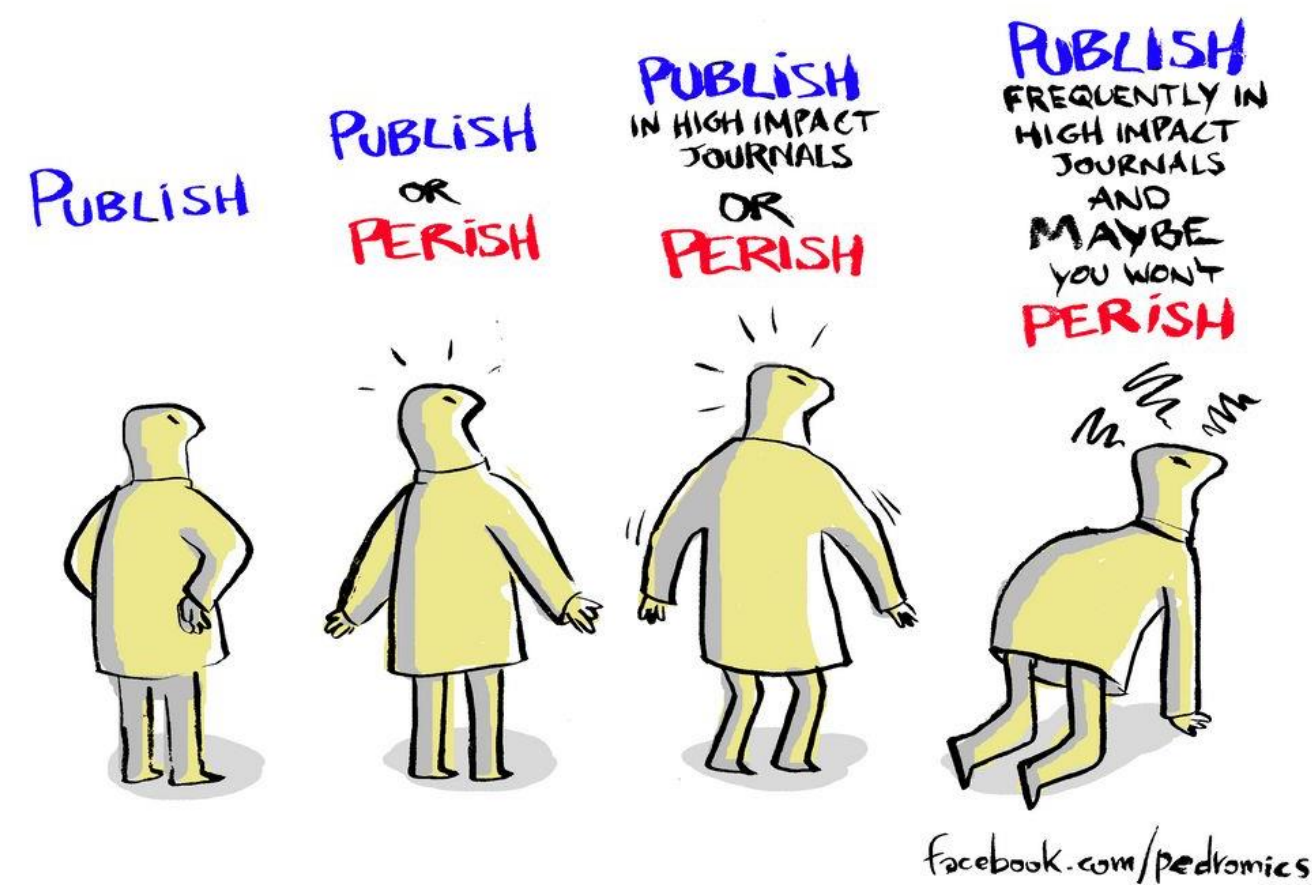


WHAT DRIVES RESEARCH MISCONDUCT?

PUBLISH

All the academia system is based on publications (and its citations).

- Want to get your PhD?
- Want to get funded?
- Want to get promoted?
- Want to get extra money?



RESEARCH FRAUD IS

By the USA Office of Research Integrity (ORI)

1) Plagiarism

- Copy without citation
- Use the work of someone without citation (even if the person agrees)
- Copy your own work without citation
- ...

2) Falsification

- Altered photographic figures
- Omitting (important) outliers data (on purpose)
- Changing your data
- ...

3) Fabrication

- Inventing results
- Inventing a whole article (Paper mills)
- ...

RESEARCH MISCONDUCT COULD ALSO STAND IN A GREY ZONE

1) Plagiarism

2) Falsification

3) Fabrication

4) Biaias

- P-hacking
- Null results
- Novelty > solid results

5) Negligence

- Replicability
- Inadequate record of research projects
- Inadequate research design

6) Hype

- Ties with editor/reviewers
- Ghost authorship or eviction
- Salami-slicing

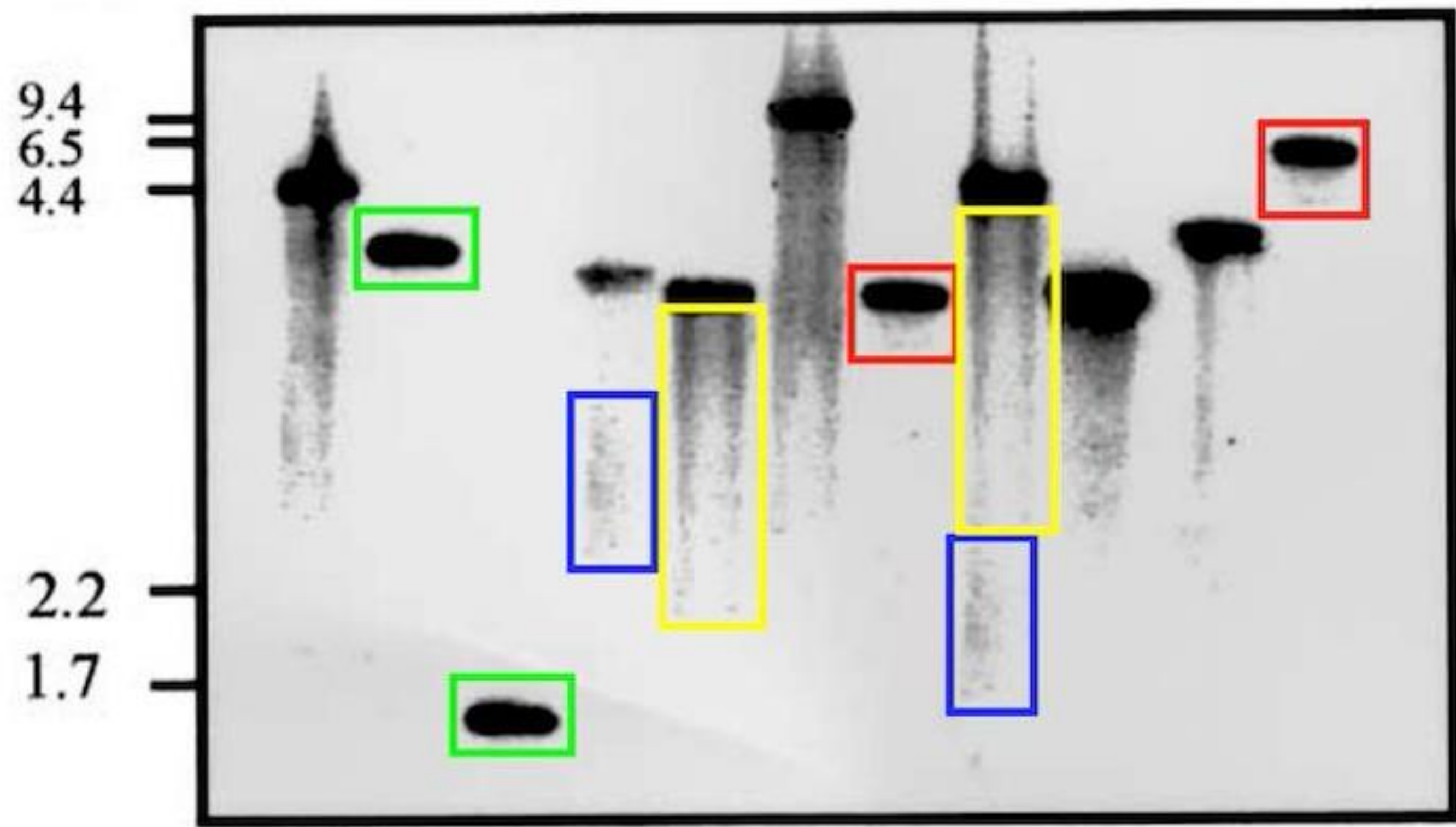
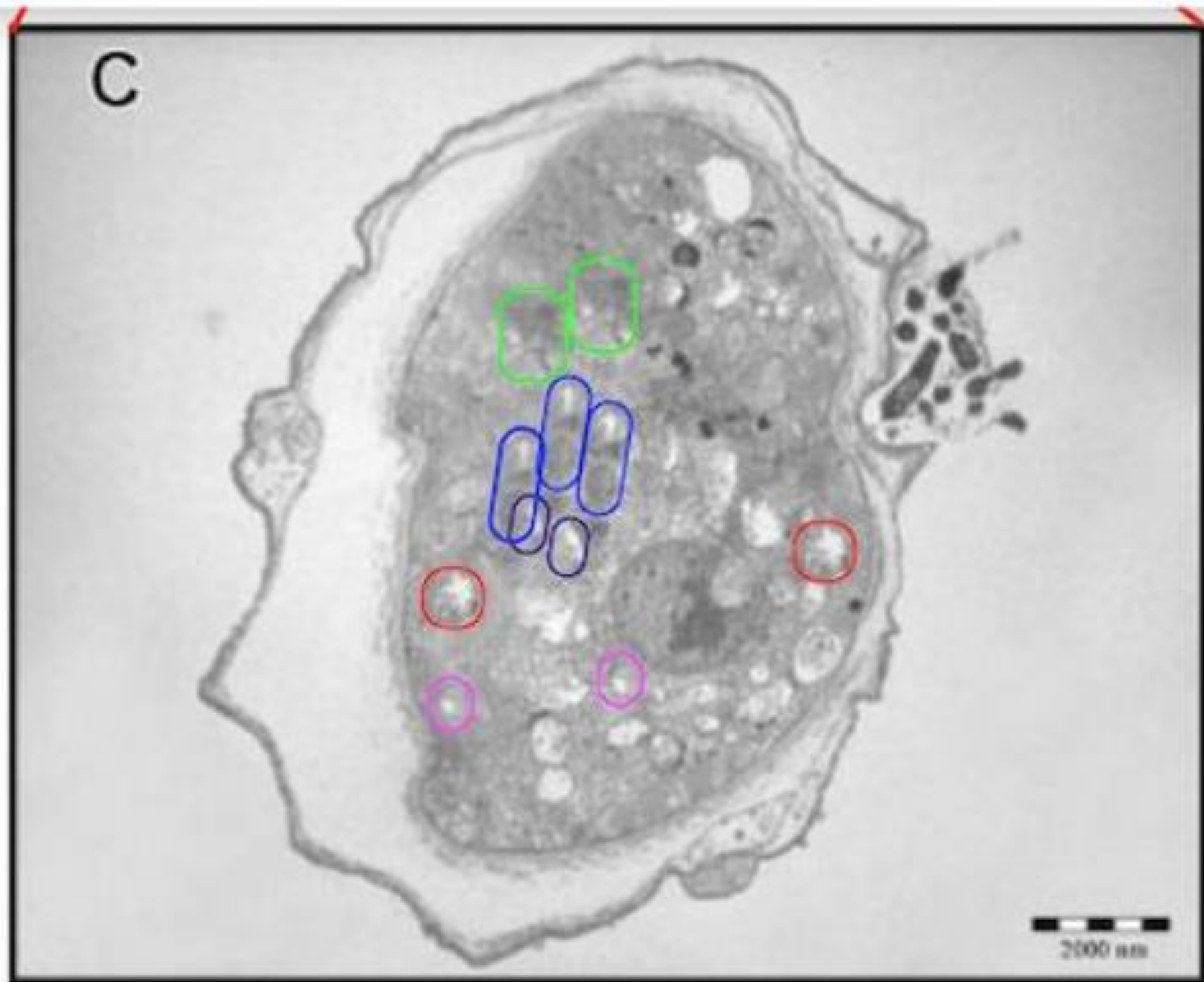


IMAGE FALSIFICATION

IMAGE FALSIFICATION

Duplicated or altered photographic figures

Aka “photoshoping”

Different degrees of falsification

IMAGE FALSIFICATION

Expression of fluorescent recombinant protein of different bacterial strains

Level 1: simple duplication

Honest mistake

OR

Image manipulation ?



IMAGE FALSIFICATION

Level 2: duplication with repositioning and/or alteration



IMAGE FALSIFICATION

Level 2: duplication with repositioning and/or alteration

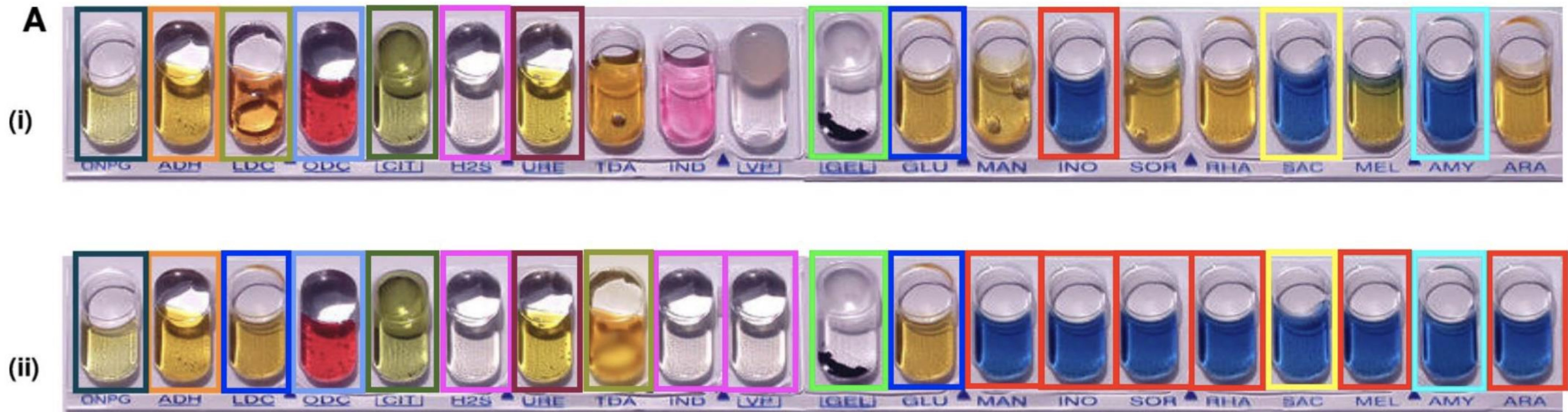


IMAGE FALSIFICATION

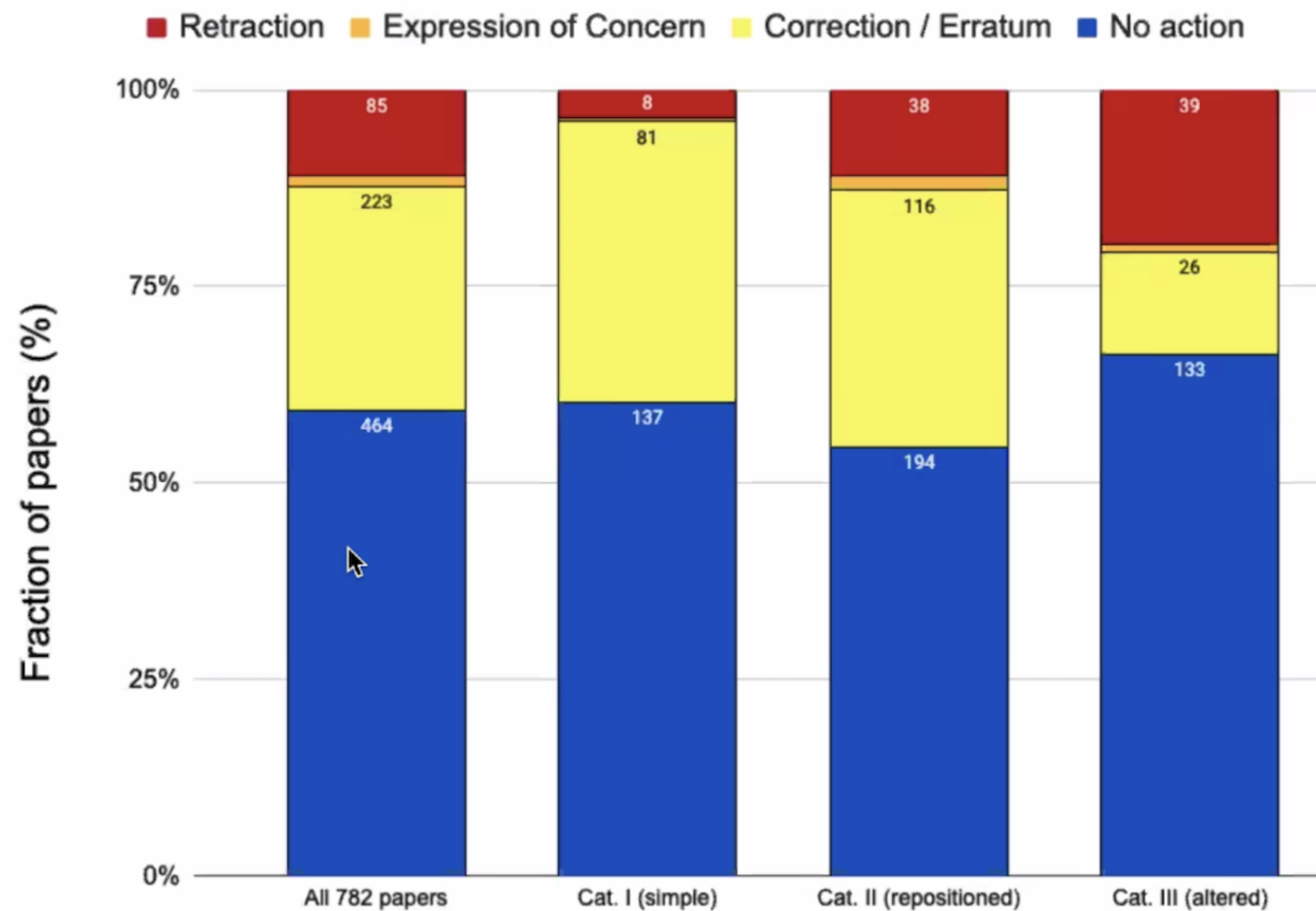
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IMAGE FALSIFICATION

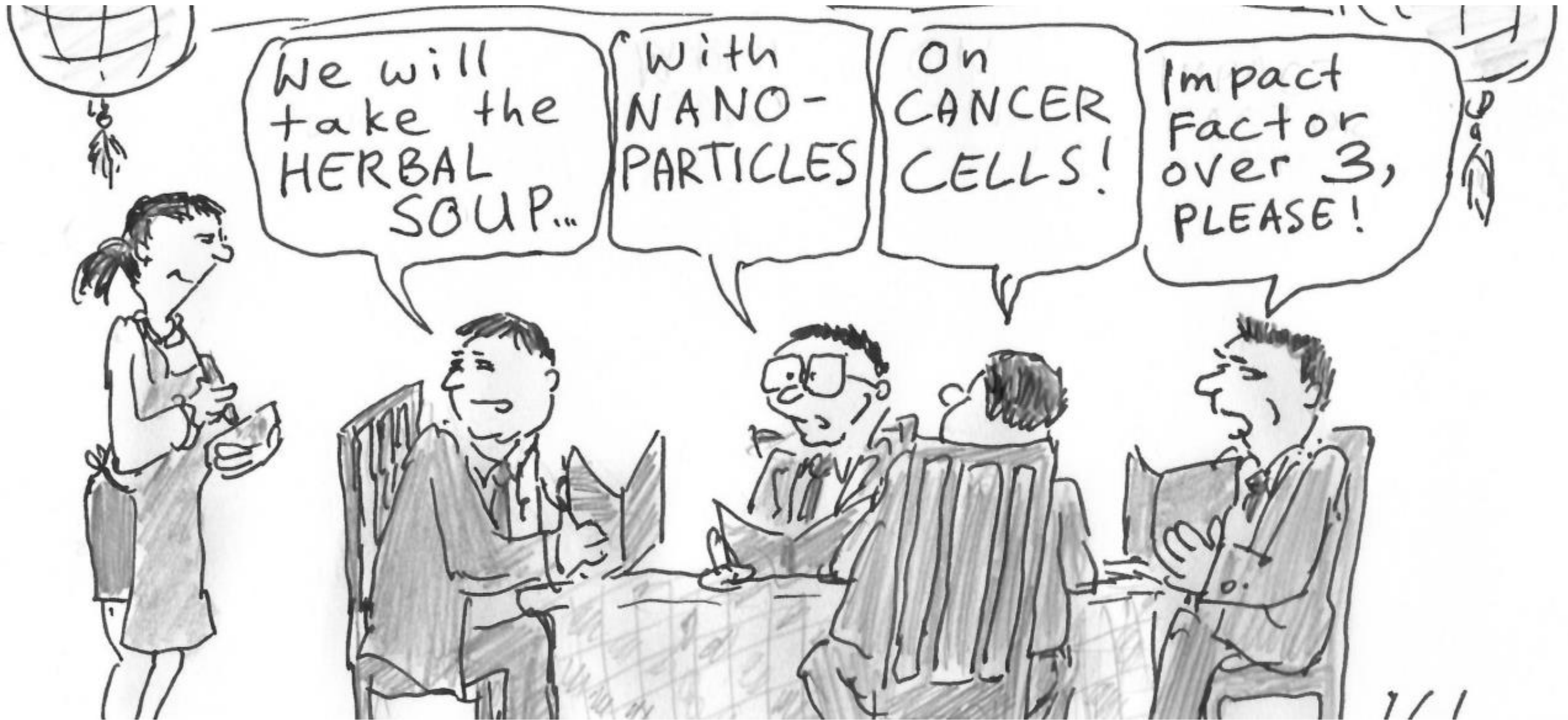
Research show that +-4 to 6% of articles with image falsification

Articles with image duplication/falsification can be reported to the journal editors



BUT

- Slow reaction
- Moderate reaction



PAPER INVENTION

RESULTS INVENTION

Individual level

Exemple: Diederik Stapel (Social psychology)

Tielburg university, The Netherlands



Data fraud in 55 papers and in 10 Ph.D. theses written by students he supervised (2004-2011)

A screenshot of a Science journal article page. The page features the Science logo at the top left and navigation links like 'Current Issue', 'First release papers', 'Archive', and 'About' at the top right. The article title is 'Coping with Chaos: How Disordered Contexts Promote Stereotyping and Discrimination' by Diederik A. Stapel and Siegwart Lindenberg. Below the title, there is a 'REPORT' label and social media sharing icons. A prominent yellow banner at the bottom of the article area states: 'This article has been retracted. Please see: Retraction - 2 December 2011'. A 'CHECK ACCESS' button is visible in the bottom right corner of the article area.

RESULTS INVENTION

Individual level

Example: Diederik Stapel (Social psychology)

Tielburg university, The Netherlands



Data fraud in 55 papers and in 10 Ph.D. theses written by students he supervised (2004-2011)

“Industrial” level

Paper Mills

= totally fabricated articles from A to Z based on a template or AI

\$ hundreds to thousands K

PAPER MILLS

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♥ Favorites 0
✓ Cart 0

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Все контакты
Found 11258 out of 11629 manuscripts
Page 1 of 23

Publication date / Available to buy up to	Place of the author in the authorship list / Price		Topic	Keywords	Description acc to Scopus base	Description acc to WoS base	Indexed in WoS subbases / other databases	Specialty / Direction / Science
#14 July 2025 05-03-2024 deadline	1 place - 860 USD. 2 place - 780 USD. 3 place - 710 USD. 4 place - 630 USD. 5 place - 550 USD.	♥ to Favorites Full info	#14 Entrepreneurial education in the study of information systems management strategies		Scopus Q3 Percentile 20..39			Pedagogy; Economics and management; Business Accounting; Strategy; Education
#35 July 2025 05-03-2024 deadline	1 place - 860 USD. 2 place - 780 USD. 3 place - 710 USD. 4 place - 630 USD. 5 place - 550 USD.	♥ to Favorites Full info	#35 The economic potential of renewable energy sources	solar power plant, renewable energy, net present value, photovoltaic system, installed capacity	Scopus Q3 Percentile 30..49			Economics and management; Energy
#59 June 2025 05-03-2024 deadline	1 place - 860 USD. 2 place - 780 USD. 3 place - 710 USD. 4 place - 630 USD. 5 place - 550 USD.	♥ to Favorites Full info	#59 Water scarcity, mechanization of agricultural processes		Scopus Q3 Percentile 20..39			Agriculture; Engineering; Ecology; Mechanical Engineering Механическая инженерия и
#103 July 2025 05-03-2024 deadline	1 place - 620 USD. 2 place - 560 USD. 3 place - 500 USD. 4 place - 450 USD. 5 place - 390 USD.	♥ to Favorites Full info	#103 RECOLTIVATION OF INDUSTRIAL DUMPS OF MINING ENTERPRISES		Scopus Q4 Percentile 1..20			Ecology; Economics and management Environmental Science; Ecology
#110 July 2025 05-03-2024 deadline	1 place - 620 USD. 2 place - 560 USD. 3 place - 500 USD. 4 place - 450 USD. 5 place - 390 USD.	♥ to Favorites Full info	#110 The importance of forest ecosystem services in the development of forestry in the region		Scopus Q4 Percentile 1..20			Ecology; Economics and management Environmental Science; Ecology
	1 place - 620 USD.	♥ to Favorites						

PAPER MILLS

← Post

 **Authorship for sale**
@author_for_sale

Final chance to join as an author

June 17

Revise

Title: Fat transplant: Growth and Regeneration of cells and re-birth with the miracle of fat cells

Journal:
Journal of Cosmetic Dermatology

IF: 2.1

4th: available

Payment after acceptance !!

10:55

11:58 · 17 juin 23 · 1 161 Vues

1 repost 1 citation 2 J'aime

Individual announcements



REVIEW ARTICLE |  Open Access |  

Fat transplant: Amazing growth and regeneration of cells and rebirth with the miracle of fat cells

Zahra Hajimortezayi BSc, Narges Daei BSc, Nasim Gholizadeh PhD, Mana Zakeri PhD, Farah Alhili PhD, Sajedeh Hasanzadeh BSc, Arezoo Hormozi BSc, Faezeh Ebrahimi BSc, Majid Zamani PhD ✉

First published: 27 November 2023 | <https://doi.org/10.1111/jocd.16103>

Zahra Hajimortezayi and Narges Daei were authors contributed equally to this work.

☰ SECTIONS

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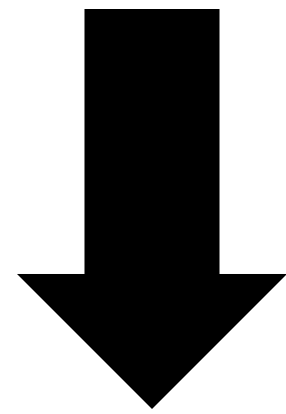
Abstract

Backgrounds and Objective

During fat transplantation, adipose tissue is removed from the body and injected into different areas under the skin. The goal of this review article is to look into the efficacy and applicability of fat transplantation in regenerative medicine and rejuvenation, including Nanofat, Microfat, and Millifat.

PAPER MILLS

Consequences ?



Losing money

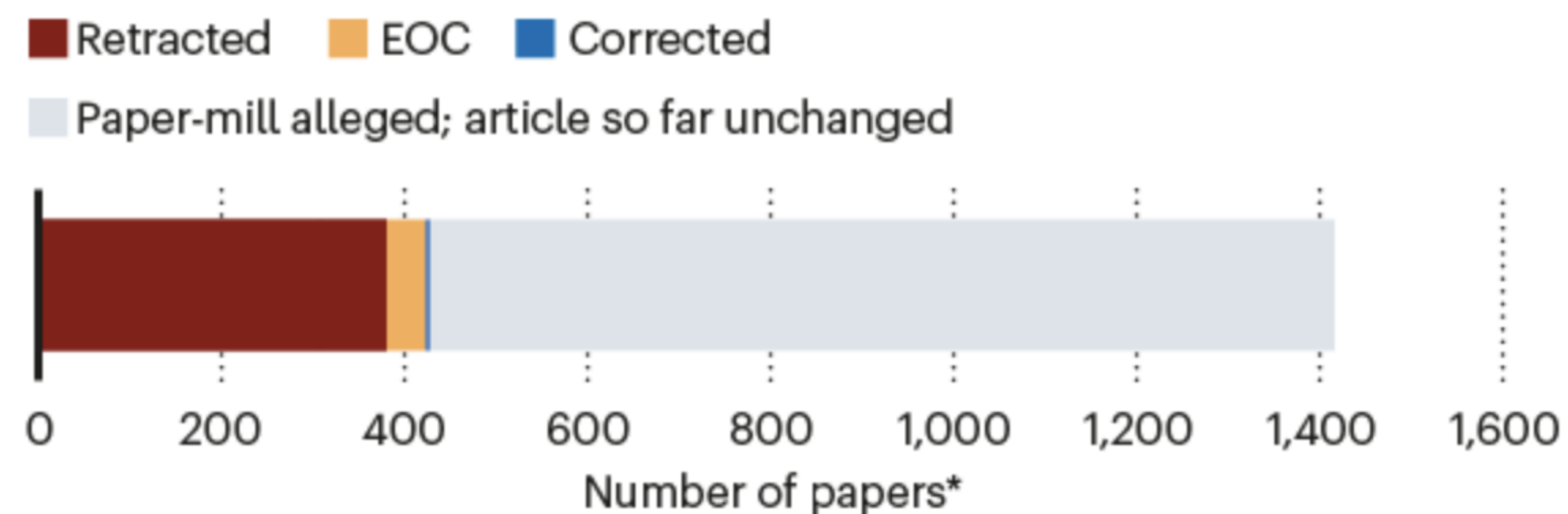
Losing time

Losing energy

Totally fake articles cited by others and used as a basis for new research

FRAUD ALLEGATIONS

Since January 2020, independent sleuths and journals have flagged more than 1,000 published papers potentially linked to paper mills — companies that produce fraudulent articles. Hundreds of these papers have been retracted, corrected or labelled with an expression of concern (EOC).



*All papers include authors from Chinese hospitals. Another 197 articles (at least) with authors at Chinese hospitals have been retracted since January 2020. These are not ones that have made it onto lists of potential publication-mill products. Data collated by Nature up to 18 March.

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Byrne et al. (2022) found 700 articles from paper mills out of 12K articles about human genomics.

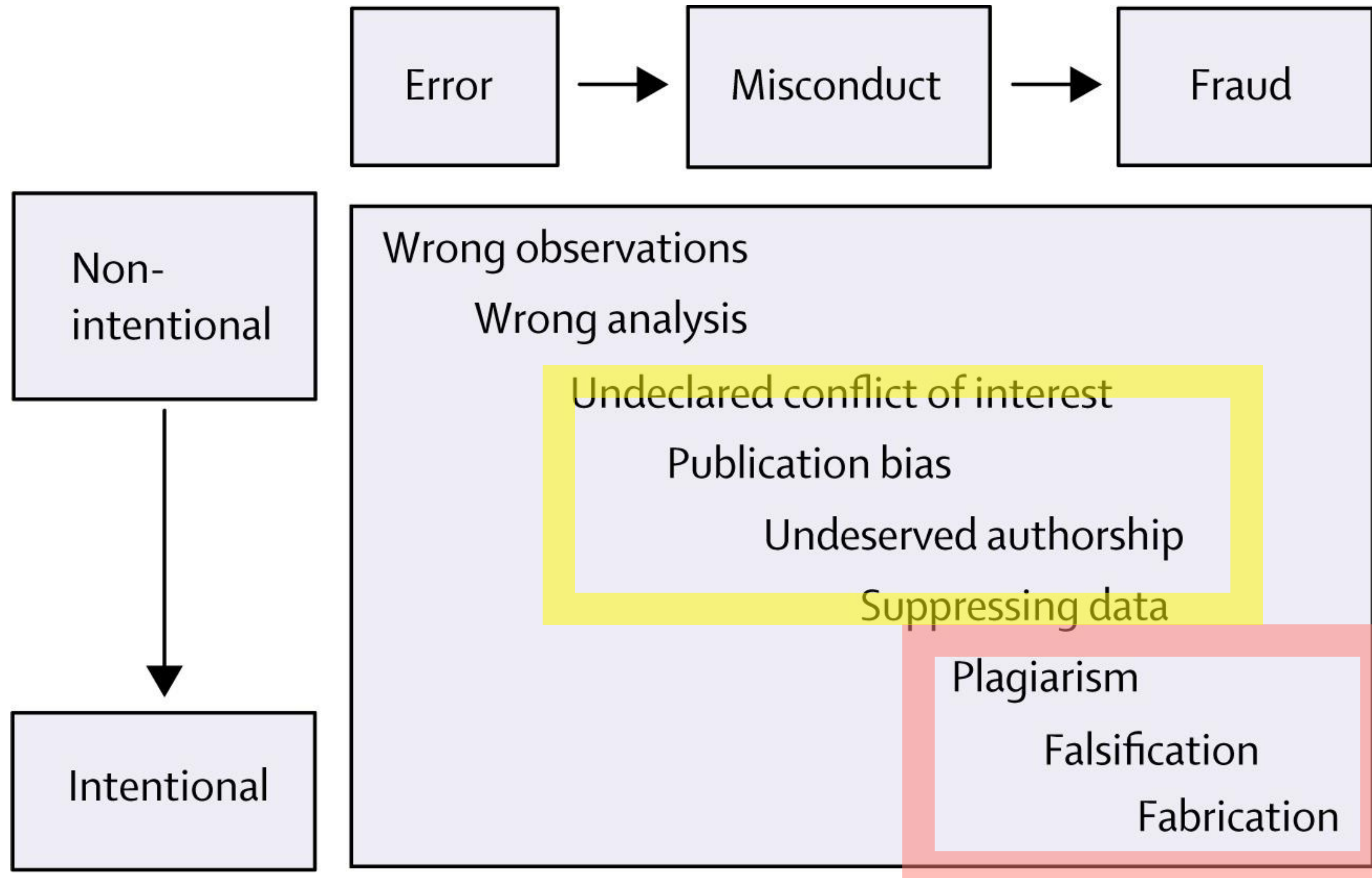
Want to read a bit more?

COPE & STM. Paper Mills — Research report from COPE & STM — English. <https://doi.org/10.24318/jtbG8IHL>



BORDELINE BEHAVIOUR THE GREY ZONE

BORDERLINE BEHAVIOUR



PUBLICATION BIASES

Novelty > solid

P-hacking (p-value < 0.05)

Null results

Salami slicing

What is p-hacking?

<u>P-VALUE</u>	<u>INTERPRETATION</u>
0.001	HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT
0.01	
0.02	
0.03	
0.04	SIGNIFICANT
0.049	
0.050	OH CRAP. REDO CALCULATIONS.
0.051	ON THE EDGE OF SIGNIFICANCE
0.06	
0.07	HIGHLY SUGGESTIVE, SIGNIFICANT AT THE P<0.10 LEVEL
0.08	
0.09	
0.099	HEY, LOOK AT THIS INTERESTING SUBGROUP ANALYSIS
≥0.1	

https://imgs.xkcd.com/comics/p_values.png





CITATION ISSUES

Individual level

materialstoday:
PROCEEDINGS



Volume 33, Part 7, 2020, Pages 4047-4053

Emission analysis of the diesel engine using *Stoechospermum marginatum*, brown marine algae with Al₂O₃ nano fluid

S. Karthikeyan^a, A. Prathima^b, M. Periyasamy^c, G. Mahendran^c

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- ▶ 56 references
- ▶ 55 auto-citations!

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CITATION ISSUES

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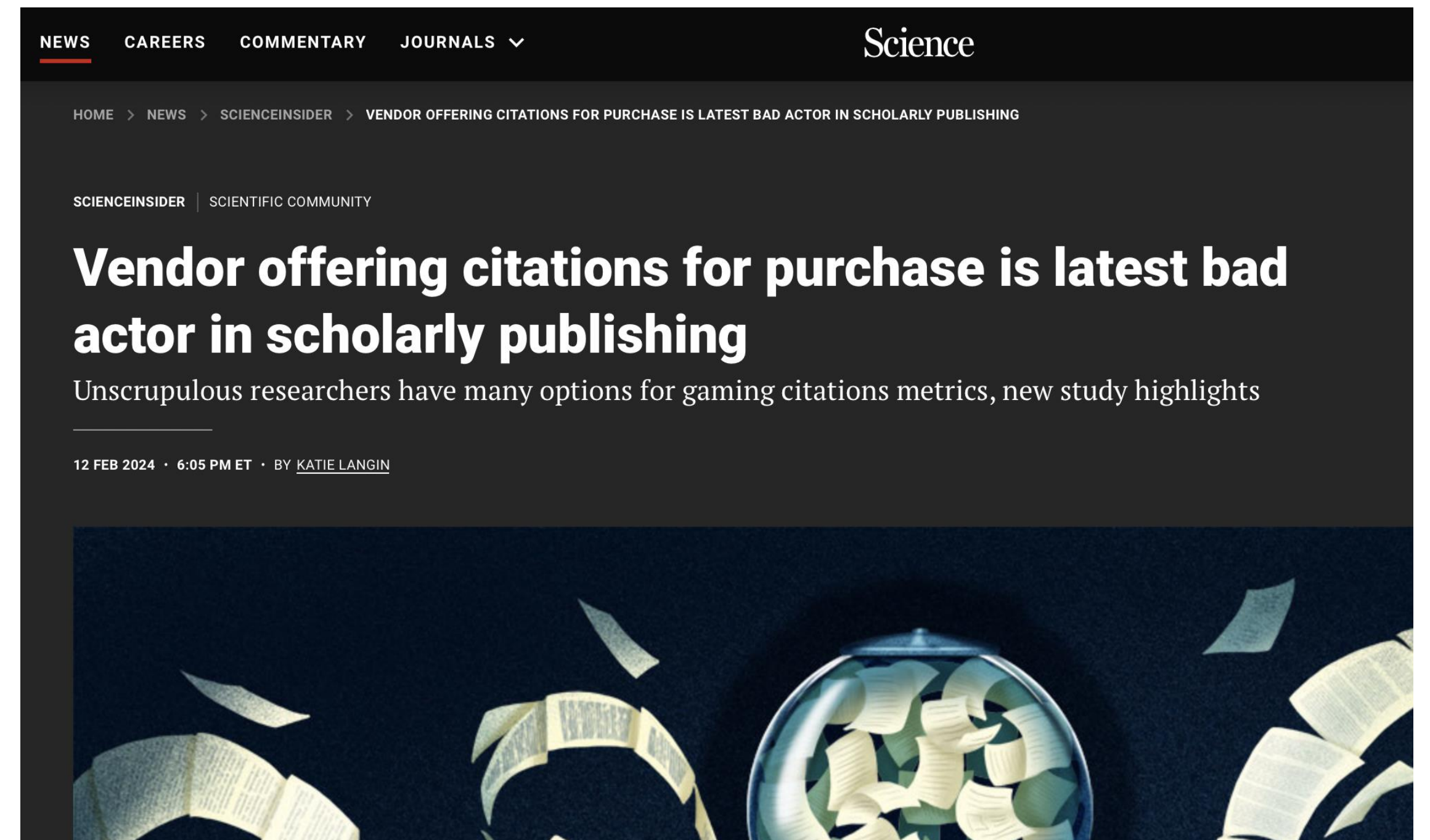
Volume 33, Part 7, 2020, Pages 4047-4053

Emission analysis of the diesel engine using *Stoechospermum marginatum*, brown marine algae with Al₂O₃ nano fluid

[S. Karthikeyan](#)^a, [A. Prathima](#)^b, [M. Periyasamy](#)^c, [G. Mahendran](#)^c

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- ▶ 56 references
- ▶ 55 auto-citations!



doi: 10.1126/science.zk7dou0

CITATION ISSUES

Google Scholar is manipulatable

Hazem Ibrahim,^{1,2,‡} Fengyuan Liu,^{1,3,‡} Yasir Zaki^{1,*} Talal Rahwan^{1,*}

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Citations are widely considered in scientists' evaluation. As such, scientists may be incentivized to inflate their citation counts. While previous literature has examined self-citations and citation cartels, it remains unclear whether scientists can purchase citations. Here, we compile a dataset of ~1.6 million profiles on Google Scholar to examine instances of citation fraud on the platform. We survey faculty at highly-ranked universities, and confirm that Google Scholar is widely used when evaluating scientists. Intrigued by a citation-boosting service that we unravelled during our investigation, we contacted the service while undercover as a fictional author, and managed to purchase 50 citations. These findings provide conclusive evidence that citations can be bought in bulk, and highlight the need to look beyond citation counts.

SERVICES	CLASS I	CLASS II	CLASS III
Google Scholar profile creation	✓	✓	✓
Citation improvement	10+	10+	10+
i10 index improvement	✓	✓	✓
H index improvement	✓	✓	✓
Cited in	SCI/SCI-E journals	Scopus journals	International journals / conferences

Yes dr 11:14 AM

We have packages 11:14 AM

Publications Department 1:
Thank you 🍷🥰
Welcome to [Redacted]

Citations and H-Index Booster package cost

You will be providing us 10 - 15 references in apa style format
We add that in Scopus publication papers as references,

100 citation package 500 USD

50 citations 300 USD

Duration : 45 Days



AUTHORSHIP ISSUES

1) Gift authorship

“I add you, you add me”

2) Ghost or honorary authorship

“My name is big, you’ll be published”

3) Authorship eviction

“Adding the technician who did everything? He doesn't need it for his CV”

4) Authorship for sale (paper mills...)



NATURE INDEX | 05 January 2023

Unearned authorship pervades science

Research-integrity survey also suggests that there is a split in US- and Europe-based researchers' perceptions of 'questionable research practices'.

By [Dalmeet Singh Chawla](#)



The manuscript "Analysis of Alkylphenol Ethoxylates in Tea by SPE Coupled to UPLC-MS/MS" is a very interesting work. This work describes the Alkylphenol ethoxylates (APEOs) is a kind of widely used non-ionic surfactant, as an adjuvant in pesticide formulation, which is considered to cause endocrine disrupting effect. In the current study, detection method for APEOs residue in tea was established, on the basis of SPE (sol-id-phase extraction) for simultaneous analysis of nonylphenol ethoxylates (NPEOs) and oc-tylphenol ethoxylates (OPEOs) by UPLC-MS/MS. In the spiked concentrations from 0.024 µg/kg to 125.38 µg/kg for 36 monomers of APEOs (nEO = 3-20), the recoveries of APEOs ranged from 70.3-110.7% with RSD ≤16.9%, except OPEO20 (61.8%) and NPEO20 (62.9%). The results are consistent with the data and figures presented in the manuscript. While I believe this topic is of great interest to our readers, I think it needs major revision before it is ready for publication. So, I recommend this manuscript for publication with major revisions.

1. In this manuscript, the authors did not explain the importance of the Alkylphenol Ethoxylates in the introduction part. The authors should explain the importance of Alkylphenol Ethoxylates.

2) Title: The title of the manuscript is not impressive. It should be modified or rewritten it.

3) Correct the following statement "The detection rate and the range of monomers of NPEOs was generally higher than that of OPEOs. The current study would provide a theoretical basis to guide the ra-tional use of APEOs as adjuvant in commercial pesticide production".

4) Keywords: here so many keywords and reduce them up to 5. So, modify the keywords.

5) Introduction part is not impressive. The references cited are very old. So, Improve it with some latest literature like 10.3390/biom12010083, 10.3390/ph15101164

6) The authors should explain the following statement with recent references "The total concentration of OPEOs was between 0.057 µg/kg and 12.9 µg/kg. The monomers with the highest detection concentration were OPEO9, OPEO10, and OPEO11".

7) Add space between magnitude and unit. For example, in synthesis "21.96g" should be 21.96 g. Make the corrections throughout the manuscript regarding values and units.

8) The author should provide reason about this statement "50 tea samples in total were randomly collected from the market, including 24 white tea, 12 black tea, 5 dark tea, 4 green tea, 3 scented tea, and 3 oolong tea".

9) Comparison of the present results with other similar findings in the literature should be discussed in more detail. This is necessary in order to place this work together with other work in the field and to give more credibility to the present results.

10) Conclusion part is very long. Make it brief and improve by adding the results of your studies.

11) There are many grammatic mistakes. Improve the English grammar of the manuscript.

Home / Publications

SPE-UPLC-MS/MS for Determination of 36 Monomers of Alkylphenol Ethoxylates in Tea

Molecules (2023) - 2 Comments

pubmed: 37049980 doi: 10.3390/molecules28073216 issn: 1420-3049

Qin Lin, Yujie Qin, Hezhi Sun, Xinru Wang, Mei Yang, Xinzhong Zhang, Li Zhou, Fengjian Luo

#1 M Ángeles Oviedo-García commented November 2023

1. The Reviewer PONER NÚMERO report of this published article in MDPI seems a case coercive citation.
2. Review report states "Introduction part is not impressive. The references cited are very old. So, Improve it with some latest literature like..." and require adding 2 articles in the introduction section.
3. Are the references required to be cited relevant? If so, why are not they discussed in the literature review section and not just cited in the introduction section?

SPE-UPLC-MS/MS for Determination of 36 Monomers of Alkylphenol Ethoxylates in Tea

Molecules 2023, 28(7), 3216; https://doi.org/10.3390/molecules28073216

1. The review report of this published article in MDPI seems to be part of the network of fake/manipulated reviews.
2. There are 75 very similar review reports most of them requiring to cite articles in the introduction: "the introduction part is not well organized and cited references should cite recently published articles such as" or "Introduction part is not impressive. The references cited are very old. So, improve it with some latest literature such as" followed by (mostly times) two DOIs.
3. All together up to 50 articles were required to be cited.

10.1002/app.50604
10.1002/pola.29359
10.1002/slct.202103694
10.1007/s11664-019-06929-w
10.1007/s11837-020-04490-0
10.1016/j.arabjc.2022.103937
10.1016/j.ceramint.2019.02.123
10.1016/j.chemosphere.2022.133772
10.1016/j.colsurfa.2021.126673
10.1016/i.colsurfa.2021.127390



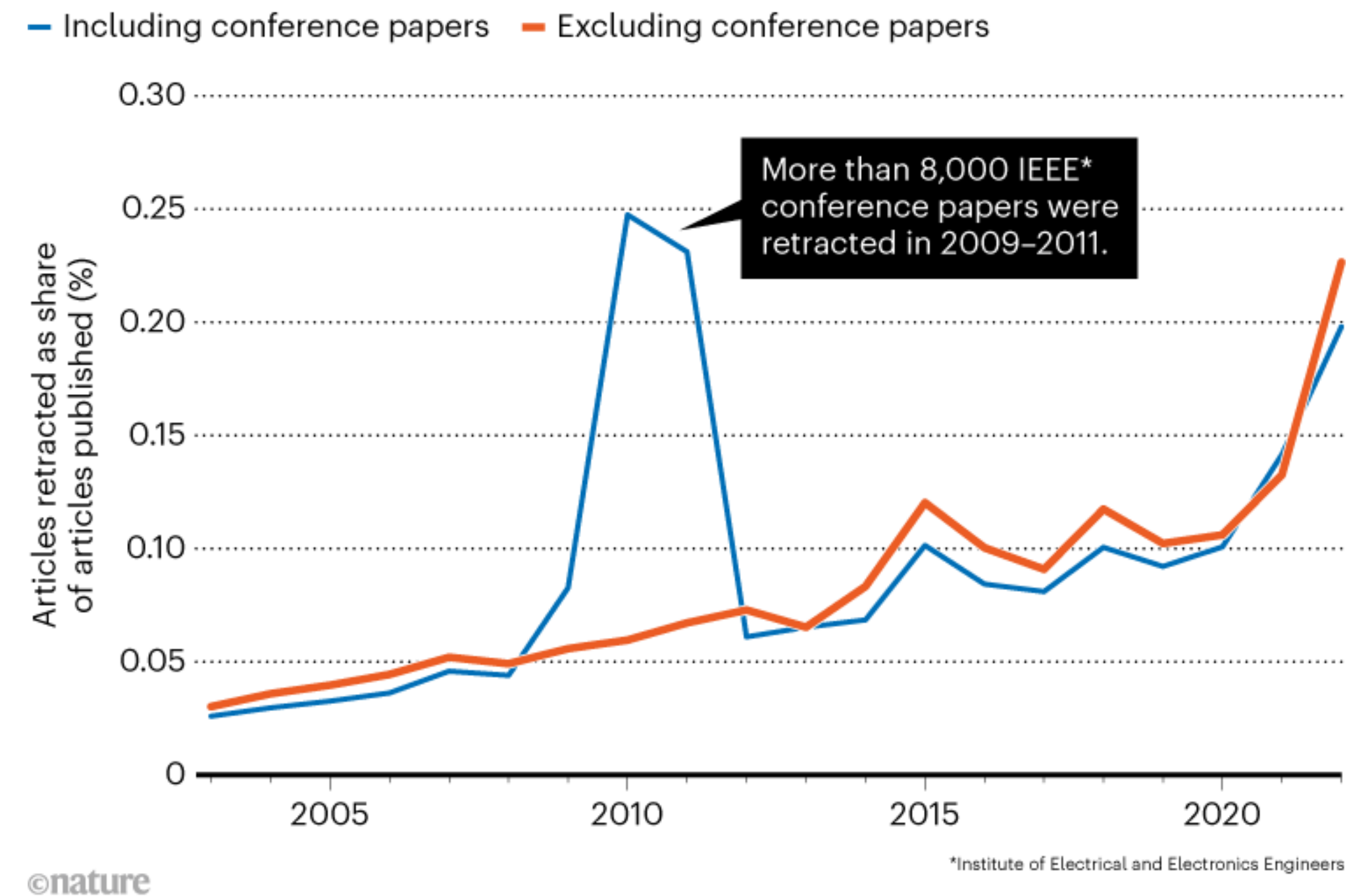
IS THERE ANY HOPE?

CONSEQUENCES ARE OBVIOUS

- Lower quality of publications
- Lower trust in scientific publications
- Publish or perish culture reenforced
- Loss of (public) money, time, energy
- ...

RISING RETRACTION RATES

The ratio of retracted papers to articles published has risen to above 0.2%.



WE CAN ALL PROMOTE RESEARCH INTEGRITY

OPEN SCIENCE

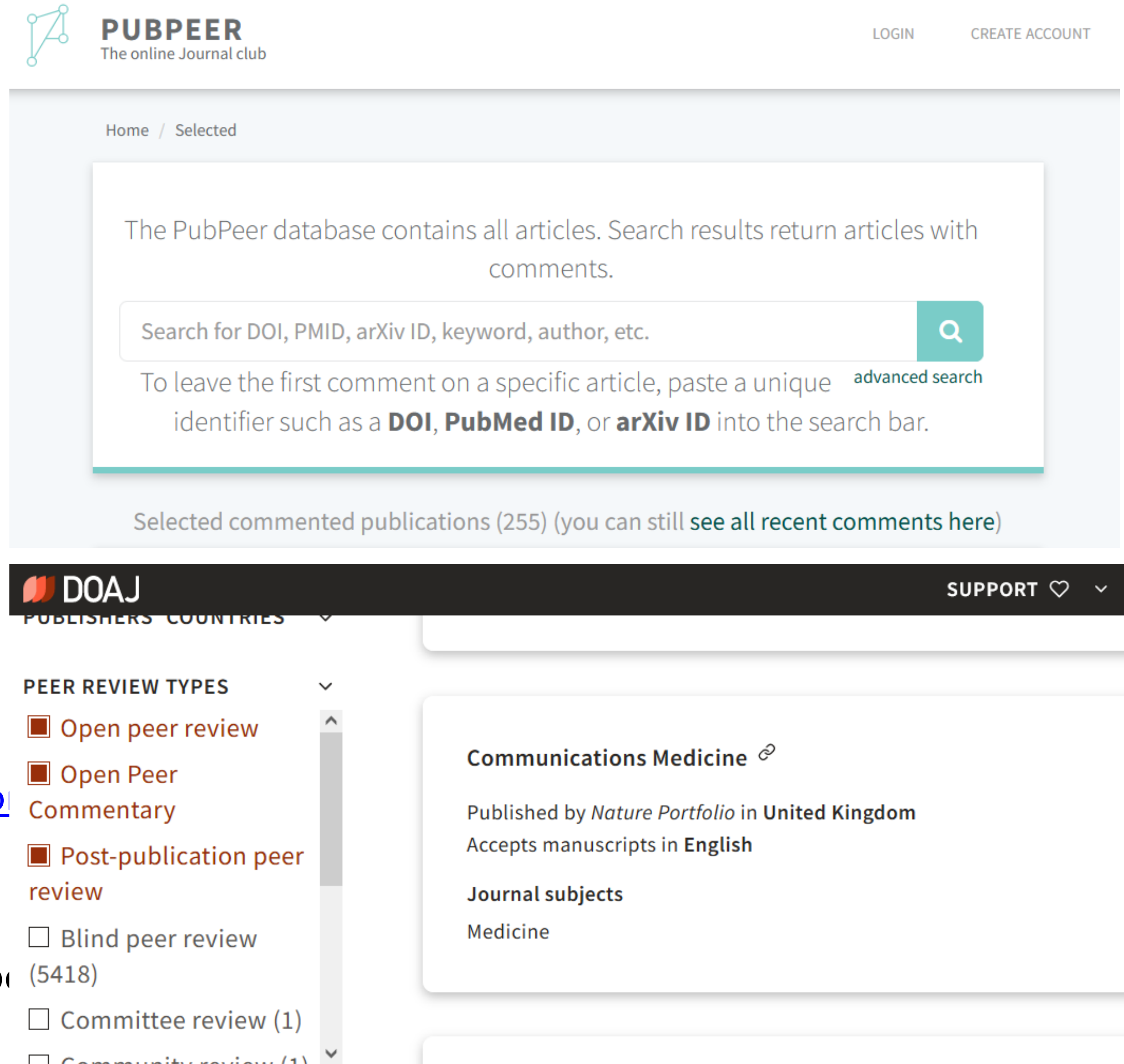
1) OPEN DATA

Open Data can minimize the risk of data falsification and fabrication

2) OPEN PEER REVIEW

Open and post peer review can help improve and correct the scientific record

- Participate in post peer reviewing if you have doubts/questions/suspicious about particular research: pubpeer.com
- Contact/Alert journal editors if necessary
- Find journals using Open Peer Review on the [DOAJ](https://doaj.org) (Directory of Open Access Journals)



The screenshot displays the PubPeer website interface. At the top, the PubPeer logo and tagline "The online Journal club" are visible, along with "LOGIN" and "CREATE ACCOUNT" links. The main content area features a search bar with the placeholder text "Search for DOI, PMID, arXiv ID, keyword, author, etc." and a search button. Below the search bar, there is a text box explaining that the database contains all articles and that search results return articles with comments. It also provides instructions on how to leave a comment by pasting a unique identifier like a DOI, PubMed ID, or arXiv ID into the search bar. A link for "advanced search" is also present. Below this, it shows "Selected commented publications (255)" with a link to "see all recent comments here".

At the bottom of the screenshot, the DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals) interface is partially visible. It shows a "PEER REVIEW TYPES" filter menu with the following options:

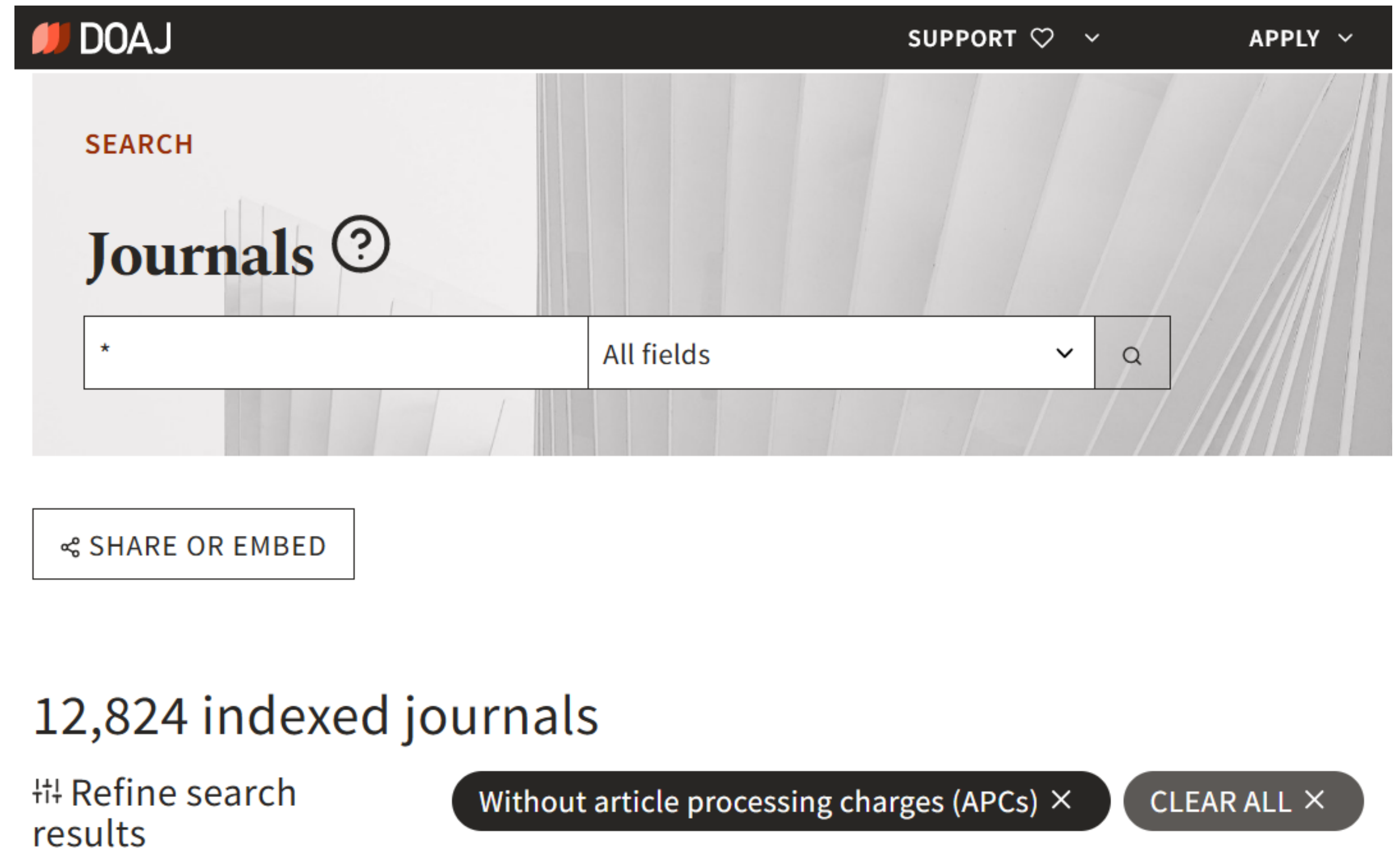
- Open peer review
- Open Peer Commentary
- Post-publication peer review
- Blind peer review (5418)
- Committee review (1)
- Community review (1)

On the right side of the DOAJ interface, there is a section for "Communications Medicine" with a link icon. Below it, it states "Published by Nature Portfolio in United Kingdom" and "Accepts manuscripts in English". Under "Journal subjects", "Medicine" is listed.

WE CAN ALL PROMOTE RESEARCH INTEGRITY

PUBLISH RESPONSIBLY

- Do not privilege quantity over quality
- Do not mistake prestige for quality
- Consider no-fees publishing venues
- Help create more bibliodiversity
- Do not just privilege novel/hype results (vs null results)



DOAJ SUPPORT APPLY

SEARCH

Journals ?

* All fields

SHARE OR EMBED

12,824 indexed journals

Refine search results Without article processing charges (APCs) CLEAR ALL

WE CAN ALL PROMOTE RESEARCH INTEGRITY

Use CRediT to deal with authorship and contributorship issues

- [CREDIT](#) can help prevent ghost authorship and/or disambiguate authorship/contributorship issues by clearly defining roles with the help of a taxonomy
- transparent process
- Used by many stakeholders (publishers, journals, platforms)
- Can be added on platforms (metadata), on manuscripts, in appendix
- CREDIT does not provide criteria for authorship BUT can help establish those (see e.g. [criteria and recommendations of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors](#))

CRediT (Contributor Roles Taxonomy) is a high-level taxonomy, including 14 roles, that can be used to represent the roles typically played by contributors to research outputs. The roles describe each contributor's specific contribution to the scholarly output.

[Conceptualization](#)

[Resources](#)

[Data curation](#)

[Software](#)

[Formal Analysis](#)

[Supervision](#)

[Funding acquisition](#)

[Validation](#)

[Investigation](#)

[Visualization](#)

[Methodology](#)

[Writing – original draft](#)

[Project administration](#)

[Writing – review & editing](#)

WE CAN ALL PROMOTE RESEARCH INTEGRITY

FIND GUIDELINES

COPE (Committee on Publication Ethics) Guidelines can help you deal with research integrity or misconduct issues. They propose guidelines on a number of topics such as:

- Allegations of misconduct
- Complaints and appeals
- Conflict of interests
- Authorship and contributorship
- Peer review processes
- ...

Core practices

The Core Practices were developed in 2017, replacing the Code of Conduct. They are applicable to all involved in publishing scholarly literature: editors and their journals, publishers, and institutions. The Core Practices should be considered alongside specific national and international codes of conduct for research and are not intended to replace these.

Journals and publishers should have robust and well described, publicly documented practices in all of the following areas for their journals:

✓ Allegations of misconduct

Journals should have a clearly described process for handling allegations, however they are brought to the journal's or publisher's attention. Journals must take seriously allegations of misconduct pre-publication and post-publication. Policies should include how to handle allegations from whistleblowers.

Latest resources

[Guest editors for single articles](#) (Case)

[Request to remove author from submitted manuscript due to academic misconduct](#) (Case)

[Reviewer misconduct and its potential impact on an submitted manuscript](#) (Case)

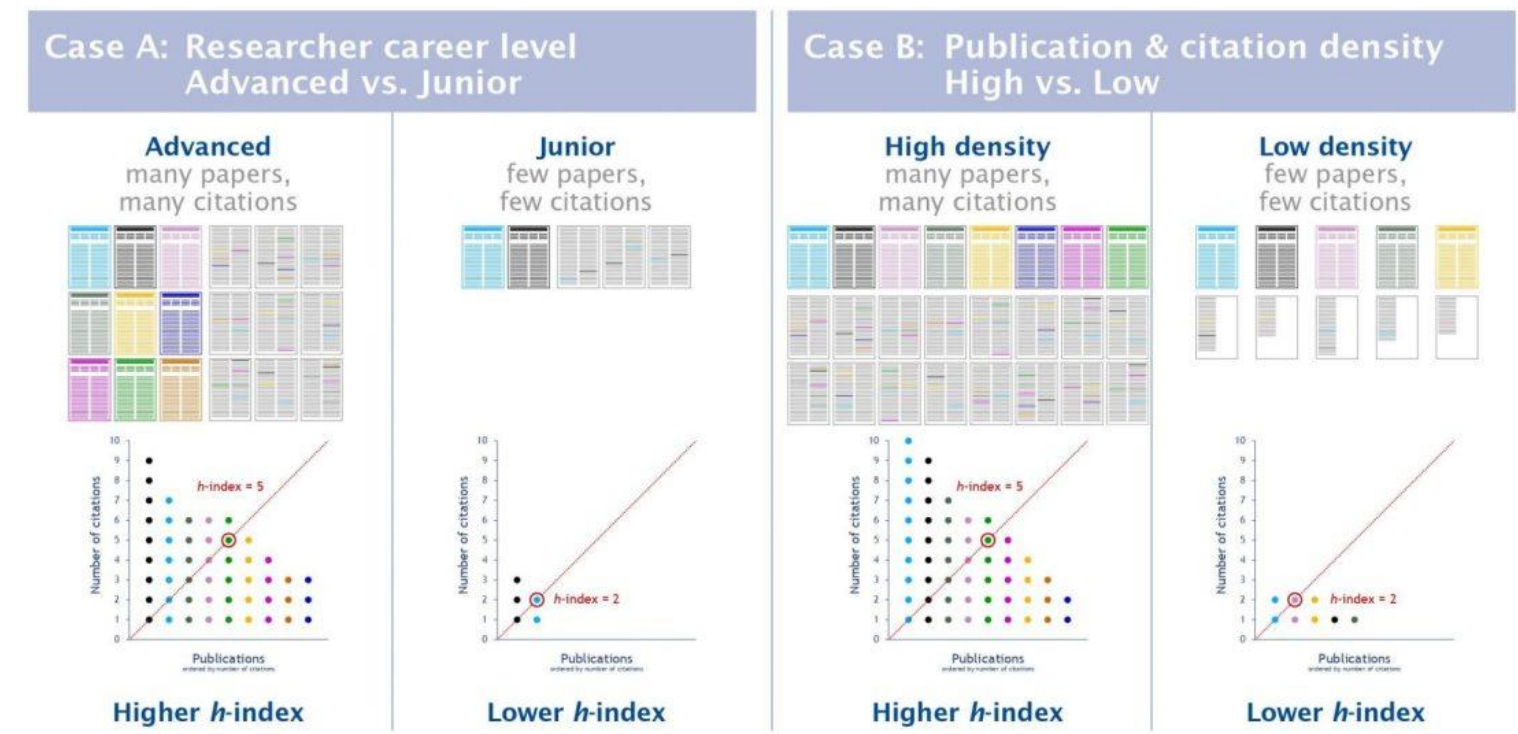
✓ Authorship and contributorship

Clear policies (that allow for transparency around who contributed to the work and in what capacity) should be in place for requirements for authorship and contributorship as well as processes for managing potential disputes

WE CAN ALL PROMOTE RESEARCH INTEGRITY

- Institution/University/governmental Level

Improve research and researchers evaluation
(less metrics...)



Problems of the h-index*

*Other bibliometric indicators may have similar problems

- Unfair comparisons:**
 - Favors researchers with longer careers
 - Favors researchers in publication- and citation-dense fields
- Rewards bad publishing and referencing behavior:**
 - Your name on many papers
 - Excessive self-citation
 - Ask colleagues to cite your papers
- Renders important contributions invisible:**
 - Leadership and vision
 - Collaborations and teamwork
 - Teaching skills
 - Research quality



THANK YOU

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