Predatory journals and conferences

**WHAT are they?**
- Journal and conference practices that deceive or mislead researchers
- Include fraudulent, low quality and unethical practices
- Motivated by profit, not scholarship, they exist worldwide
- Driven by monetisation, research metrics and peer review opacity

**WHY are they a problem?**
- Damage careers and reputations; threaten research integrity
- Hundreds of new predatory products every month
- Compromise millions of researchers; waste billions of dollars
- Dupe new and established researchers

**HOW can we combat them?**
- Practice due diligence
- Raise awareness
- Communicate their threat to science and society
- Work collaboratively to stop them

Find out more at [interacademies.org/project/predatorypublishing](https://interacademies.org/project/predatorypublishing)
A spectrum of predatory behaviours

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fraudulent</th>
<th>Deceptive</th>
<th>Unacceptable low-quality</th>
<th>Low-quality</th>
<th>Promising low-quality</th>
<th>Questionable quality</th>
<th>Quality</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High Risk</td>
<td>Low Risk</td>
<td>Low Risk</td>
<td>Low Risk</td>
<td>Low Risk</td>
<td>Low Risk</td>
<td>Low Risk</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TYPICAL MARKERS**

**FRAUDULENT**
- Rapid and unrealistic service
- Poor or no peer review
- Plagiarise reputable outlets
- Use researchers’ names without permission
- Fake editorial or advisory boards
- Meaningless programmes
- Lie about their credentials e.g. impact factor

**LOW QUALITY**
- Breach good practice
- Low quality peer review
- Aggressive or indiscriminate solicitation
- Inactive editorial or advisory board
- Lack of focus or organisation
- Invitations are full of mistakes
- Exaggerate their prestige
- Promised services are poor or lacking

**QUALITY**
- Thorough peer review
- Strong editorial and advisory boards
- Transparent, robust policy to ensure research and operational integrity (practice due diligence)
- Transparent policy for retraction or refund
- Clear about costs
- Take proper action when challenged

Find out more at [interacademies.org/project/predatorypublishing](http://interacademies.org/project/predatorypublishing)