



# Education & Outreach Moment

NSF PHASE I CENTER FOR ADAPTING FLAWS INTO FEATURES

[NSFCAFF.ORG](http://NSFCAFF.ORG)



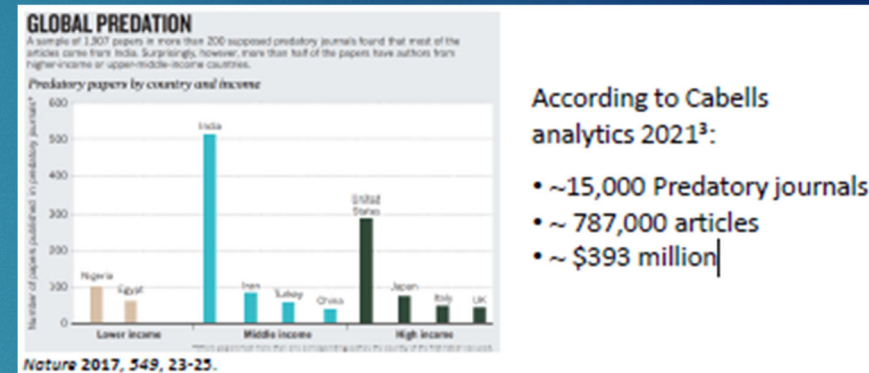
Stony Brook **University**



# Predatory Journals

## A Problem in Publishing

- “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.”<sup>1</sup>
- This definition does not include characteristics such as journal quality, intent to deceive, or quality of peer review.
- A recent study<sup>2</sup> characterized 1,907 biomedical articles from more than 200 predatory journals. 17% of the articles used NIH money. Harvard (9 articles) & the University of Texas (11 articles) were among the eight institutions with the most articles.



<sup>1</sup>Grudniewicz, A., et. al., *Nature* 2019, 576, 210-212.

<sup>2</sup>Moher, D., et. al., *Nature* 2017, 549, 23-25.

<sup>3</sup><https://www2.cabells.com/about-predatory>



# Predatory Journals

## How to Stay Safe

### 1. Online Resources

- [The Directory of Open Access Journals](#) features 12,851 journals that show “a commitment to quality, peer-reviewed open access.”
- [Advice on identifying predatory journals](#)
- [“Should I Publish in an Open Access Journals?”](#) (UC Santa Barbara) and [List of Suspicious Journals](#) (Yale)
- Think Check Submit (<https://thinkchecksubmit.org/>)
- [Beall's List of Suspicious Journal and Publishers](#)

### 2. Look Beyond the Name

- Check if the journal is indexed by services such as MEDLINE and PubMed.
- Check the background and work history of the journal.
- Check the profiles of editors/reviewers.

### 3. Journal Evaluation Tool

- Download the [Journal Evaluation Tool](#) developed by Loyola Marymount University. Grading the journal and the publisher on 16 criteria, ranging from its business model to where it appears on web searches.

<https://wame.org/principles-of-transparency-and-best-practice-in-scholarly-publishing>  
<https://predatory-publishing.com/>

<https://www.aamc.org/news-insights/problem-predatory-journals>

<https://infoguides.rit.edu/predatorypub>

<https://scholarlykitchen.sspnet.org/2019/05/01/cabells-predatory-journal-blacklist-an-updated-review/>



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