



Navigating the minefield of getting your paper published

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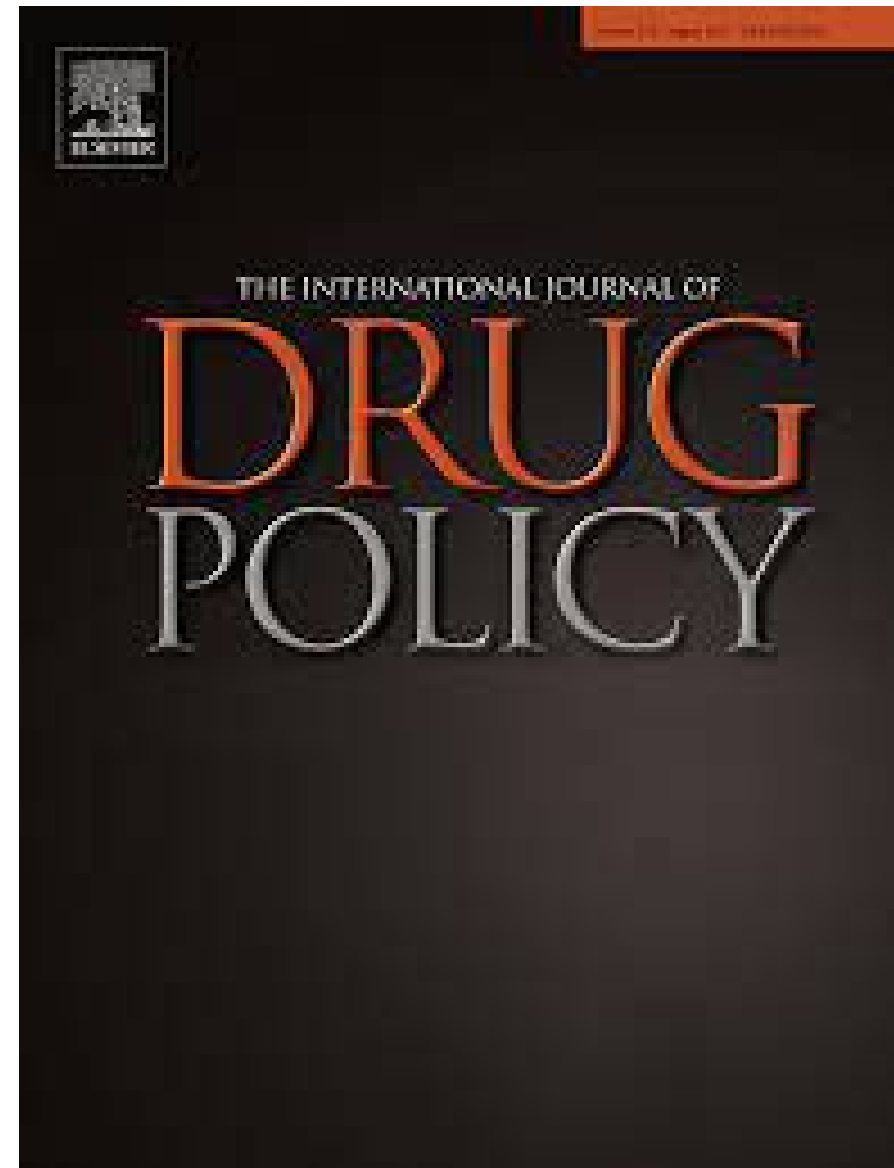
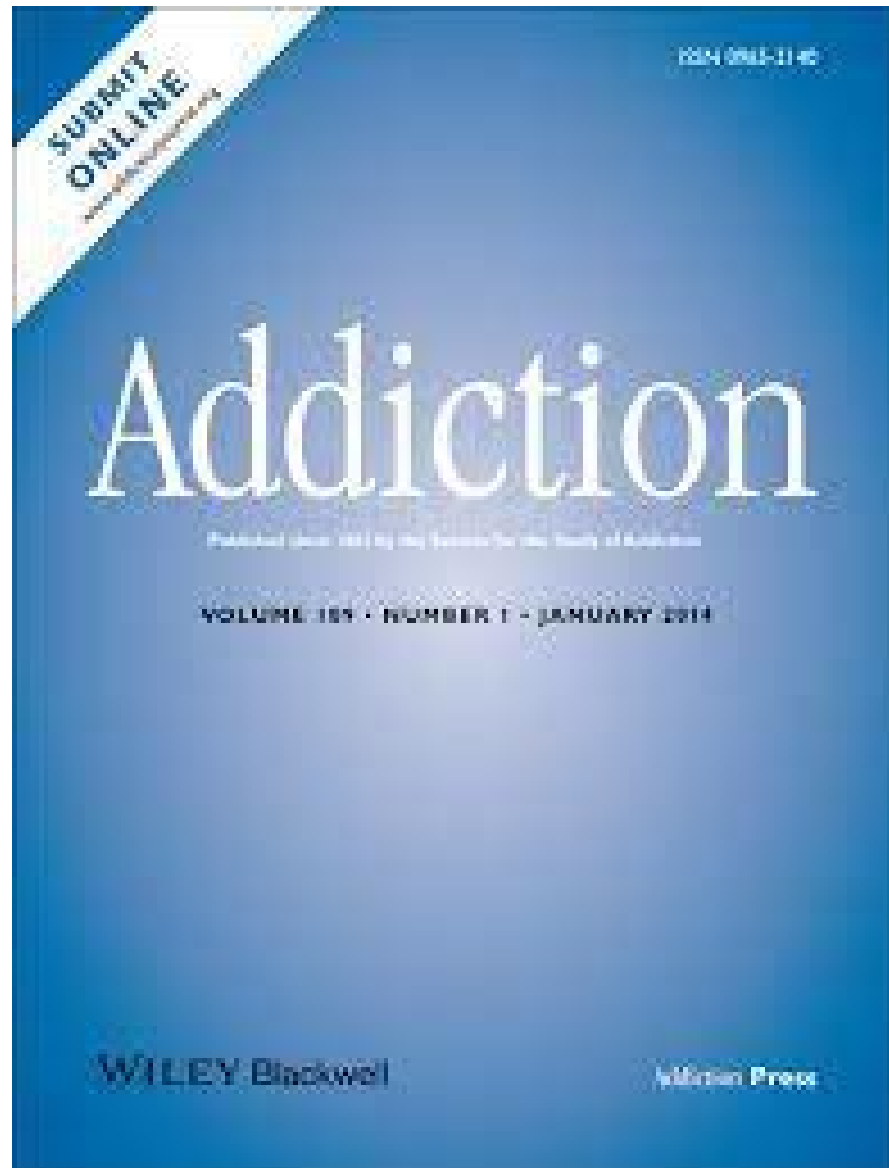


Acknowledgements

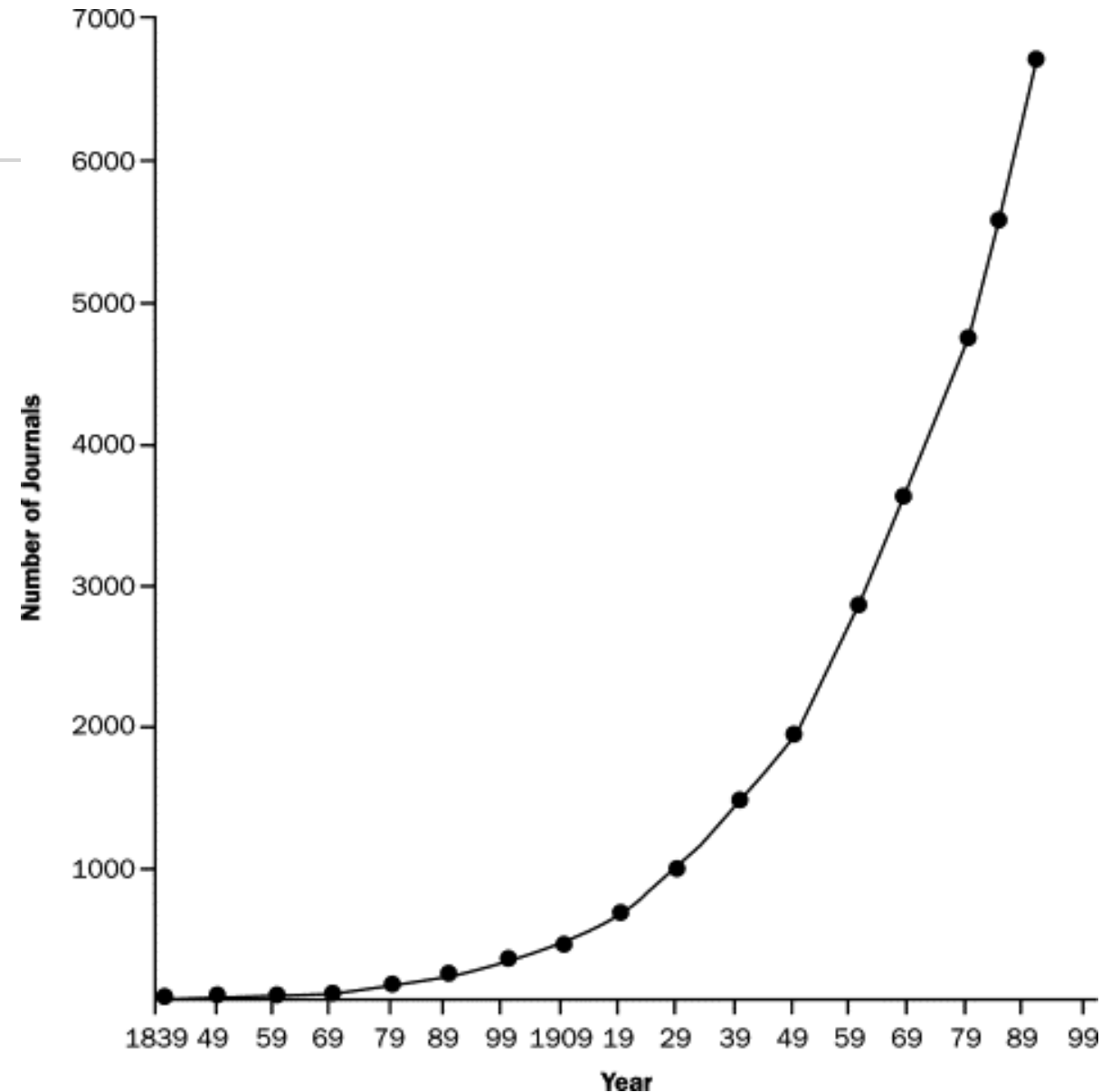
- Structure and content adapted from multiple talks given by Anthony Newman at Elsevier
- All slides credited with sources at the bottom
- For more great content see here:

ELSEVIER How to publish in scholarly journals:

https://www.elsevier.com/__data/assets/pdf_file/0008/185687/Understanding-the-Publishing-Process_May2017_web-1.pdf



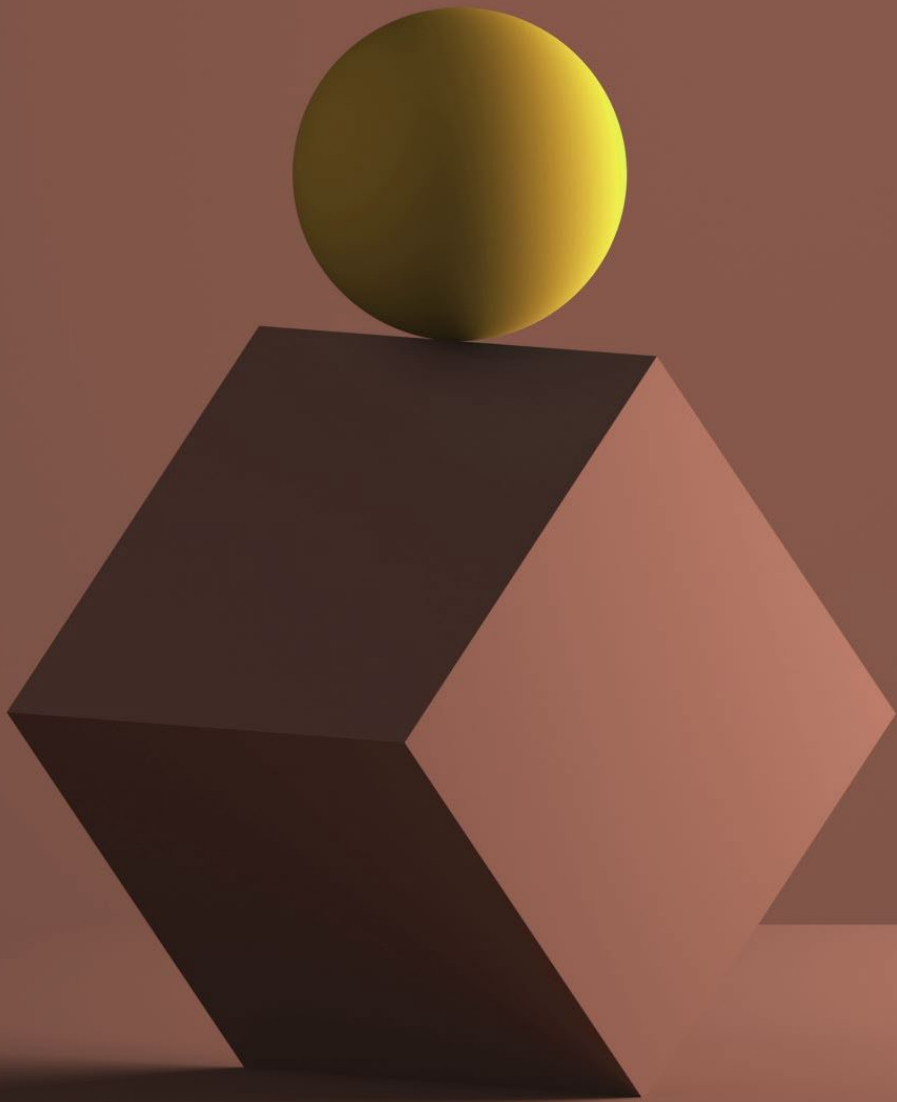
Growth of journals



Tenopir and King. "The growth of journals publishing" in *The Future of the Academic Journal* 2014



Why publish?



Publishing is key to academic success

- Peer review and publishing are essential steps of scientific process
 - Determines whether the research advances knowledge in a field
 - Ensures rigor and reproducibility
 - Main way of dissemination
- Preliminary or supportive data for research grants
- Critical for academic advancement / promotion

UC San Diego Academic File Reviews



Every **2 years** for
Assistant &
Associate Prof
Ranks

Every **3 years** for
Full Prof Rank

UC San Diego Academic Review Criteria



Review Criteria for Faculty and Academic Appointees

Series	Research and Creative Activity	Teaching	University and Public Service	Clinical Activity
Ladder Rank	X	X	X	X (c)
In Residence	X	X	X	X (c)
Clinical X	X (a)	X	X	X
Adjunct	X	X (b)	X	X (c)
Health Sciences Clinical	(d)	X	X	X
Research Scientist	X		X	
Project Scientist	X			
(a) Refer to APM-210-2, APM 275 and UCSD PPM 230-275 - Appendix A for additional information				
(b) The candidate need not teach a formal course, however meaningful contributions to the graduate or undergraduate instructional program are required and the candidate's expected contributions in this area must be clearly articulated at the time of appointment. Clinical teaching may also satisfy the teaching requirement. Refer to APM 230, PPM 230-280 and departmental standards.				
(c) If appropriate to job description				
(d) Scholarly and Creative work is required; refer to PPM 230-278 Appendix A				

Faculty in ALL series are expected to contribute to research/scholarly activity

Research and creative activity – what is it?



- Disseminated research outside the department is required for all faculty series
- Wide variety of potential scholarly outputs
 - Papers (ideally peer-reviewed) – critical if you are in a research track
 - Conference posters/presentations
 - QI initiatives submitted for health system or external review
 - Disseminated educational materials, educational curriculum, clinical guidelines

Papers: volume or quality?



- Ideally both (lots of high quality)
- **Find out expectations in your series (e.g. adjunct, ladder, clinical, project scientist) and rank (e.g. assistant, associate, full)**
 - How many?
 - Do these need to be: first/senior author? independent from your mentor?
- Academic file reviewers will judge both the quantity of scholarly outputs as well as the quality
- **Tips:** In your self-assessment, may want to:
 - clarify publishing benchmarks in your field/discipline (reviewers understand some disciplines publish more/less than others e.g. bench science vs epi)
 - mention when journals are leading specialist journals in an area



(aside over)
Getting your
paper
published



Choosing an article type

- **Full articles:** Substantial and comprehensive research paper
- **Letters or brief communications:** Quick, brief, and early communications
- **Review papers:** Summaries of recent developments on a specific topic. Often invited
- **Protocols:** Detailed study design and rationale (note: may have time limitations like cannot have completed participant recruitment at the time of submission or within 1 year of study start)
- Others: case reports, commentaries, etc

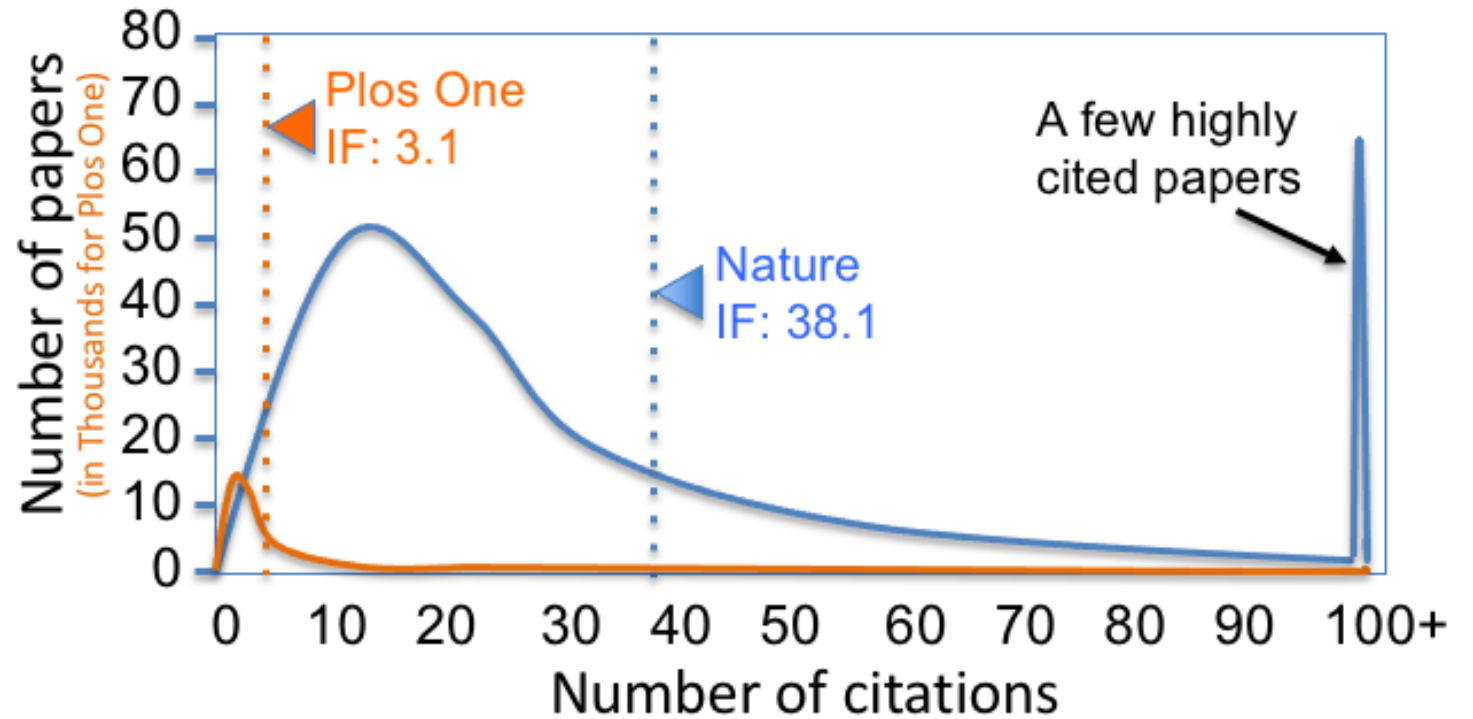


Choosing a journal

- Identify your audience.
- See where similar papers were published. Search references
- For candidate journals, check:
 - Audience/scope
 - Others papers they publish
 - Manuscript types
 - Publication fees
 - Impact factor

What is impact factor and why does it matter?

- **Impact factor (IF)** is the yearly mean number of citations of articles published in the last two years of a journal
- It is used to measure the importance or rank of a journal
- Not perfect...!
 - **Specialist journals or local/regional journals may have less impact but more appropriate readership for your topic**



Finding Global Health Journals

Libraries / Research Guides / Choosing a Journal for Publishing Your Work / Global Health Journals

Choosing a Journal for Publishing Your Work

Search this Guide

Search

For medical faculty, fellows, residents, and students.

Tips for Choosing a Journal

Case Report Journals

Medical Education Journals

Quality Improvement Journals

Student and Resident Journals

Global Health Journals

Writing Center

Complete List of Global Health Journals

- [List of Global Health Journals \(Google Sheet\)](#)

Comprehensive list of reputable peer-reviewed global health journals with information on impact factors, inclusion in PubMed, open access status, publication fees, and article types.

Global Health Journals with Impact Factors

- [The Lancet Global Health \(2018 IF: 15.873\)](#)
- [Journal of Global Health \(2018 IF: 3.079\)](#)
- [Globalization and Health \(2018 IF: 2.554\)](#)
- [Annals of Global Health \(2018 IF: 2.037\)](#)
- [Pathogens and Global Health \(2018 IF: 1.969\)](#)
- [Global Public Health \(2018 IF: 1.943\)](#)
- [Global Health Action \(2018 IF: 1.818\)](#)
- [Global Health Promotion \(2018 IF: 1.253\)](#)

Other Global Health Journals

- [BMJ Global Health](#)
- [Global Advances in Health and Medicine](#)
- [Global Health, Epidemiology, and Genomics](#)
- [Global Health: Science and Practice](#)
- [Global Health Research and Policy](#)
- [Global Pediatric Health](#)
- [Journal of Epidemiology and Global Health](#)
- [The Lancet Planetary Health](#)
- [PLOS Global Public Health](#)

<https://guides.lib.wayne.edu/choosingajournal/globalhealth>

Discuss your journal choice with your co-authors!



- They may have alternative suggestions / audiences
- This is also a good way to get feedback on journals which look good but may be predatory

Predatory journals

Credible journals



Peer review, Revisions, Rejections

Predatory journals



Greetings, We Adore Your Research!

What is a predatory journal

“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 practice**”

Comment



ILLUSTRATION BY DAVID PARKINS

Predatory journals: no definition, no defence

Agnes Grudniewicz, David Moher, Kelly D. Cobey and 32 co-authors

Leading scholars and publishers from ten countries have agreed a definition of predatory publishing that can protect scholarship. It took 12 hours of discussion, 18 questions and 3 rounds to reach.

When 'Jane' turned to alternative medicine, she had already exhausted radiotherapy, chemotherapy and other standard treatments for breast cancer. Her alternative-medicine practitioner shared an article about a therapy involving vitamin infusions. To her and her practitioner, it seemed to be authentic grounds for hope. But when Jane showed the article to her son-in-law (one of the authors of this Comment), he realized it came from a predatory journal – meaning its

promise was doubtful and its validity unlikely to have been vetted.

Predatory journals are a global threat. They accept articles for publication – along with authors' fees – without performing promised quality checks for issues such as plagiarism or ethical approval. Naïve readers are not the only victims. Many researchers have been duped into submitting to predatory journals, in which their work can be overlooked. One study that focused on 46,000 researchers based in Italy found that about 5% of them published in such outlets¹. A separate analysis suggests predatory publishers collect millions of dollars in publication fees that are ultimately paid out by funders such as the US National Institutes of Health (NIH)².

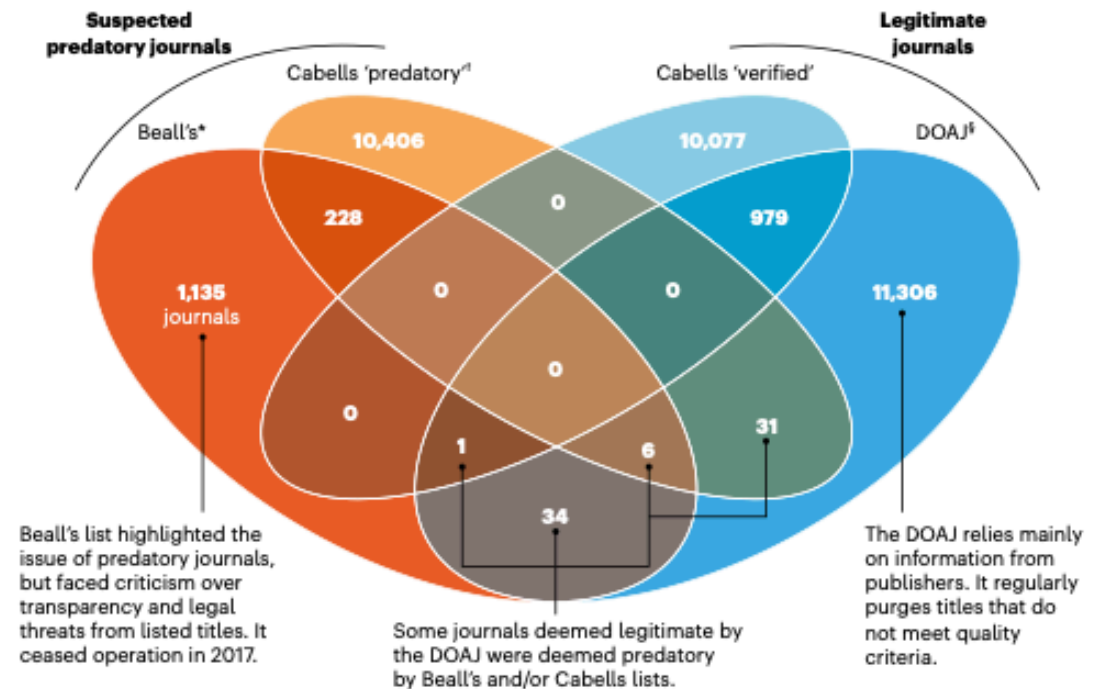
One barrier to combating predatory publishing is, in our view, the lack of an agreed definition. By analogy, consider the historical criteria for deciding whether an abnormal bulge in the aorta, the largest artery in the body, could be deemed an aneurysm – a dangerous

What journals are predatory?

- No perfect database
- **Some databases:**
 - Cabell's Predatory Reports (need to pay)
 - Beall's List (no longer updated / some incorrectly classified)

NO LIST TO RULE THEM ALL

Assessments of which journals are likely to be predatory or legitimate do not tally, and titles can appear in both categories. There is no way to know which journals were considered for a list but left off, or which were not considered.



*Informally assessed by University of Colorado Denver librarian Jeffrey Beall in ~2008-17; †Pay-to-access lists from Cabell's, a scholarly analytics company; ‡The Directory of Open Access Journals, a community-curated list requiring journal best practices such as peer review and statements on author fees and licensing.

SOURCE: ADAPTED FROM REF. 5.

How to spot predatory journals - some tips



WWIS VOICE
Predatory Journals

6 OBVIOUS SIGNS OF PREDATORY JOURNALS



- 1** Heavy solicitation of authors and editorial board members via email
- 2** Poor grammar, spelling, and punctuation on website and/or in emails
- 3** Journal titles similar to well-known reputable journals
- 4** Expedited peer review offered
- 5** No verifiable contact information provided, including mailing address
- 6** Information about author fees, editorial policies, peer-review etc. not clearly stated

- **Check** the journal, their articles, and talk to friends



So you are ready to
submit?





Check journal author guidelines

- All journals have different specific guidelines in terms of:
 - Types of articles they accept
 - Word count of abstract/article
 - Structuring of the articles
 - Number of figures/tables and specifications
 - Referencing
- Check the specific author guidelines for your journal to ensure your paper is in the right format
- Papers submitted with the wrong format often get immediately sent back



Cover letter: your 'sales' pitch

Writing a strong cover letter

- The cover letter is read by the editor to determine whether your paper will be reviewed by the journal
- It is your chance to sell your work
- Tell them what type of article it is, the key finding, and implications
- It is also your chance to explain why the work would be of interest to the readers of this specific journal

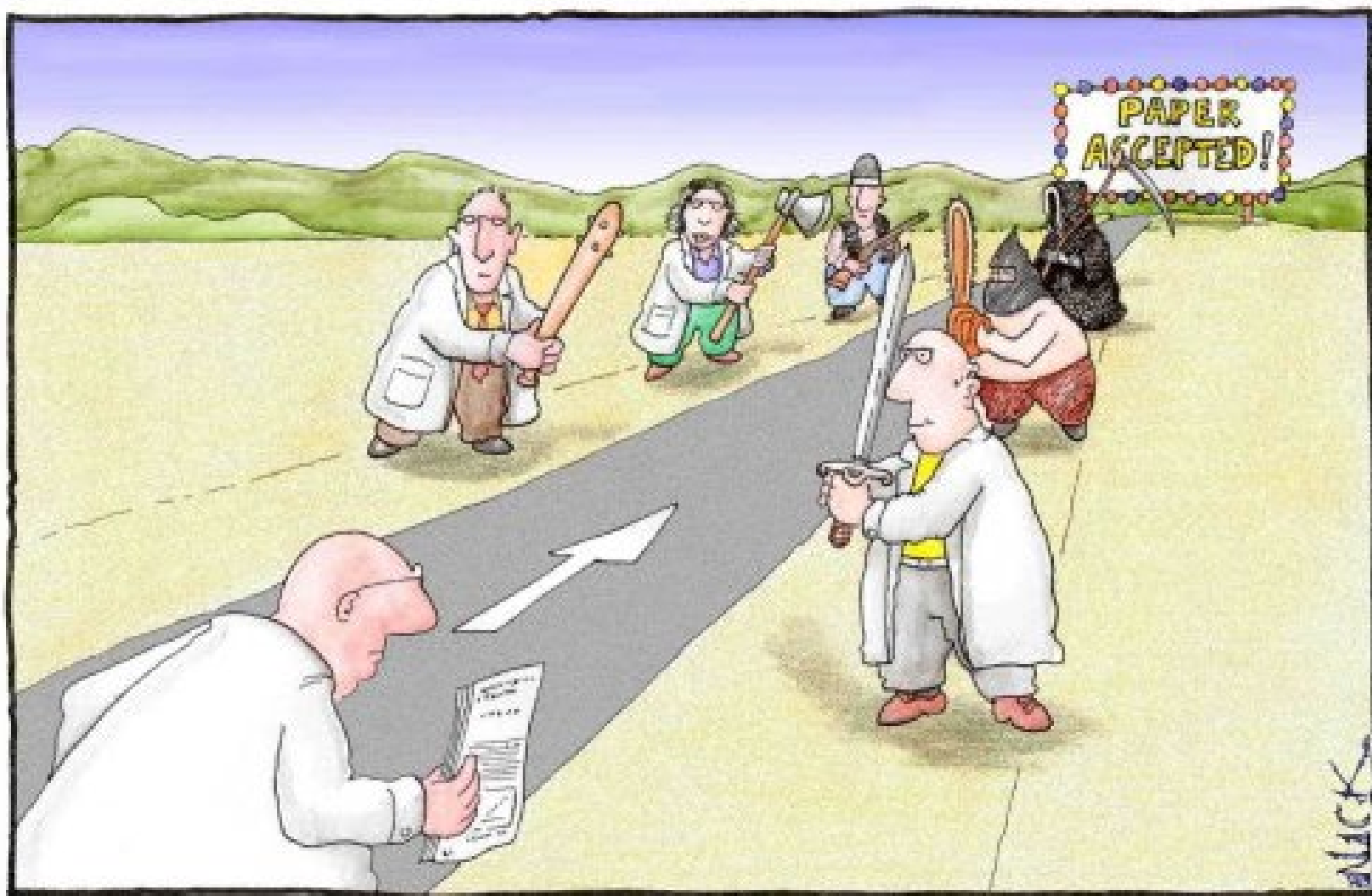
A word on selecting reviewers

- Cannot be co-authors
- Choose friendly people with an interest in this area – people that have approached you at conferences, etc
- Don't necessarily list the biggest name in the field
- The editors may not use your suggested reviewers
- Can sometimes suggest people NOT to review
 - Be selective if doing this and a short explanation why helps

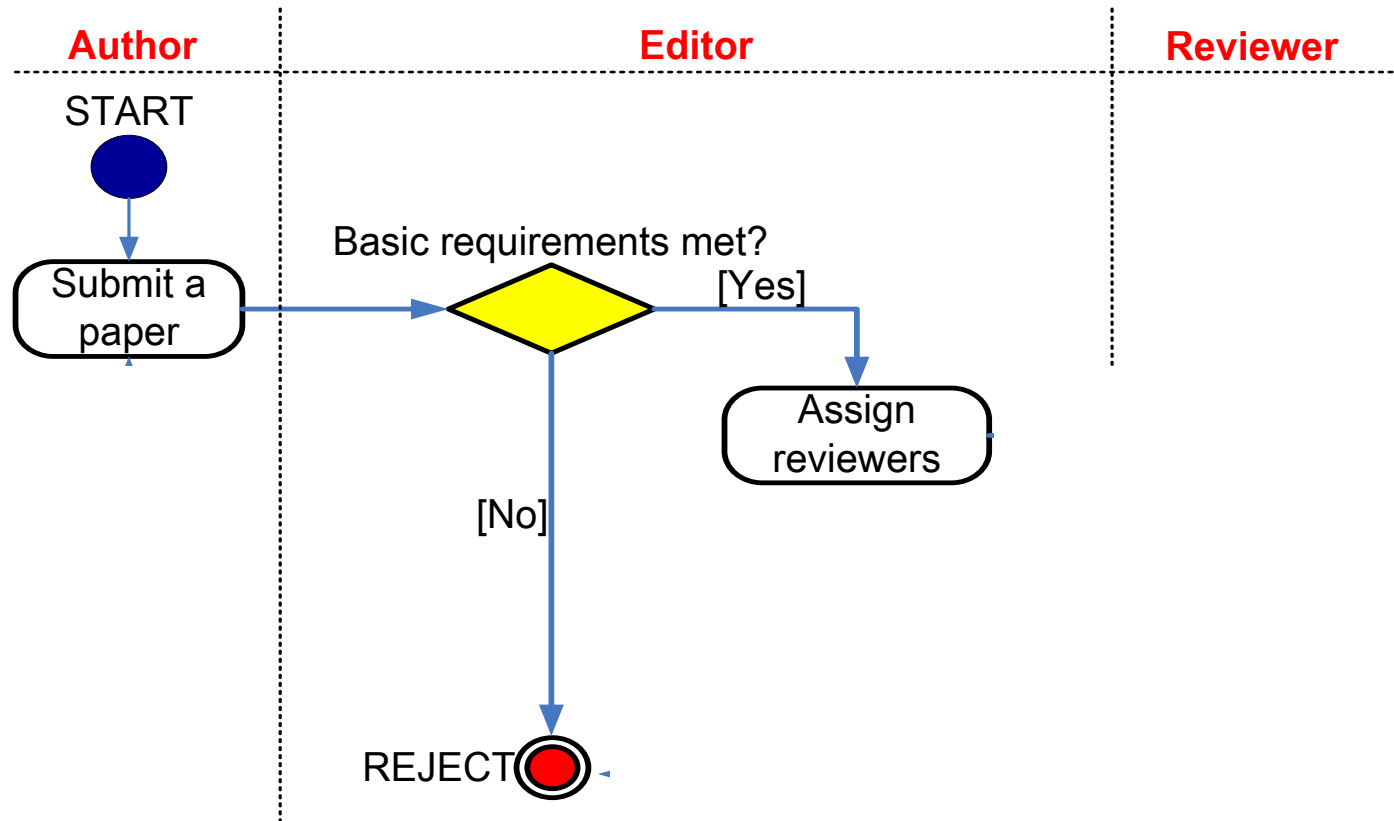


Submission!

- Often takes a bit longer than you think (e.g. entering author names and affiliations)
- Double and triple check all files are uploaded in your submission (all figures? All supplementary files?)
- Sometimes conflict of interest forms are required at submission from all authors



The review process

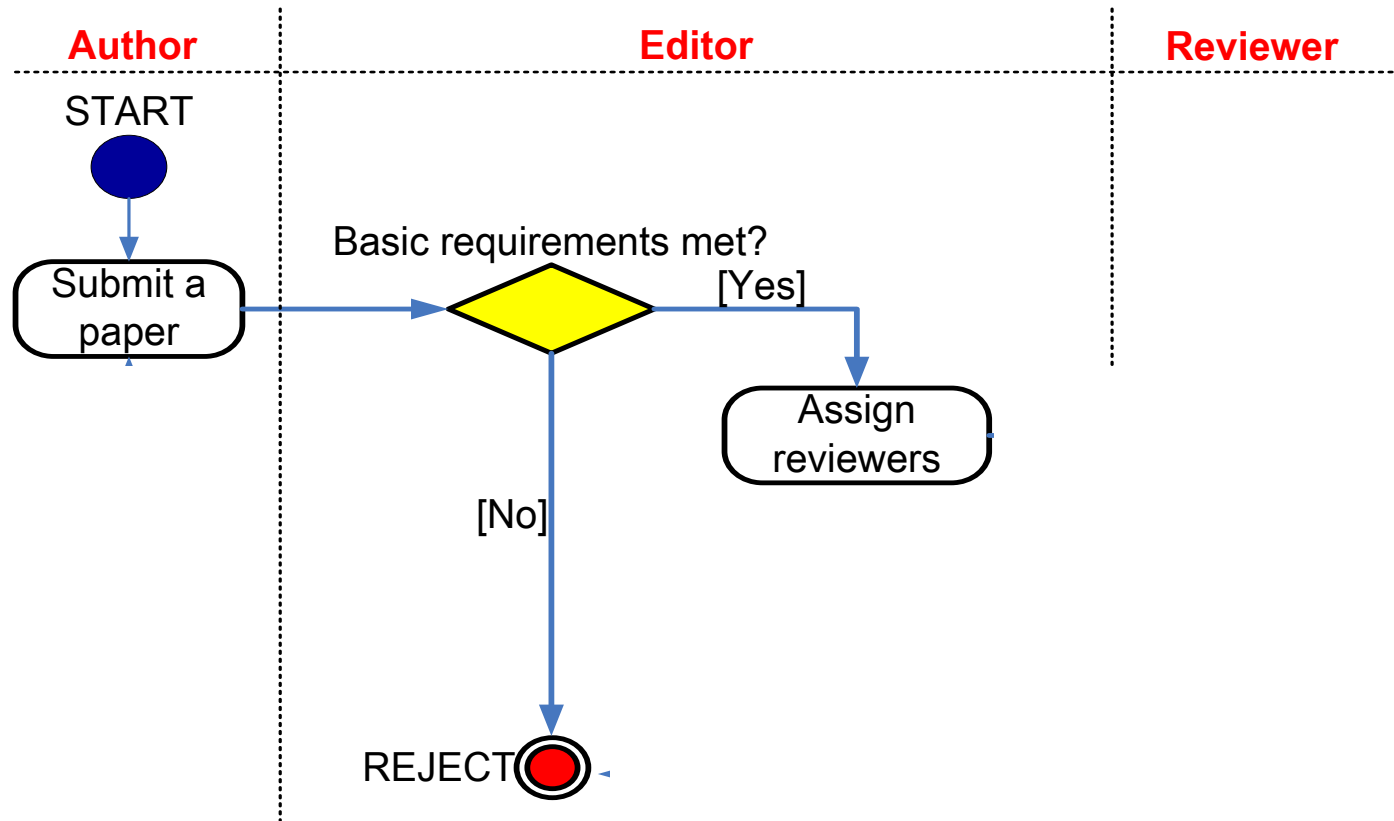


Slide: Anthony Newman
Elsevier, Amsterdam

Desk reject (reject without review)

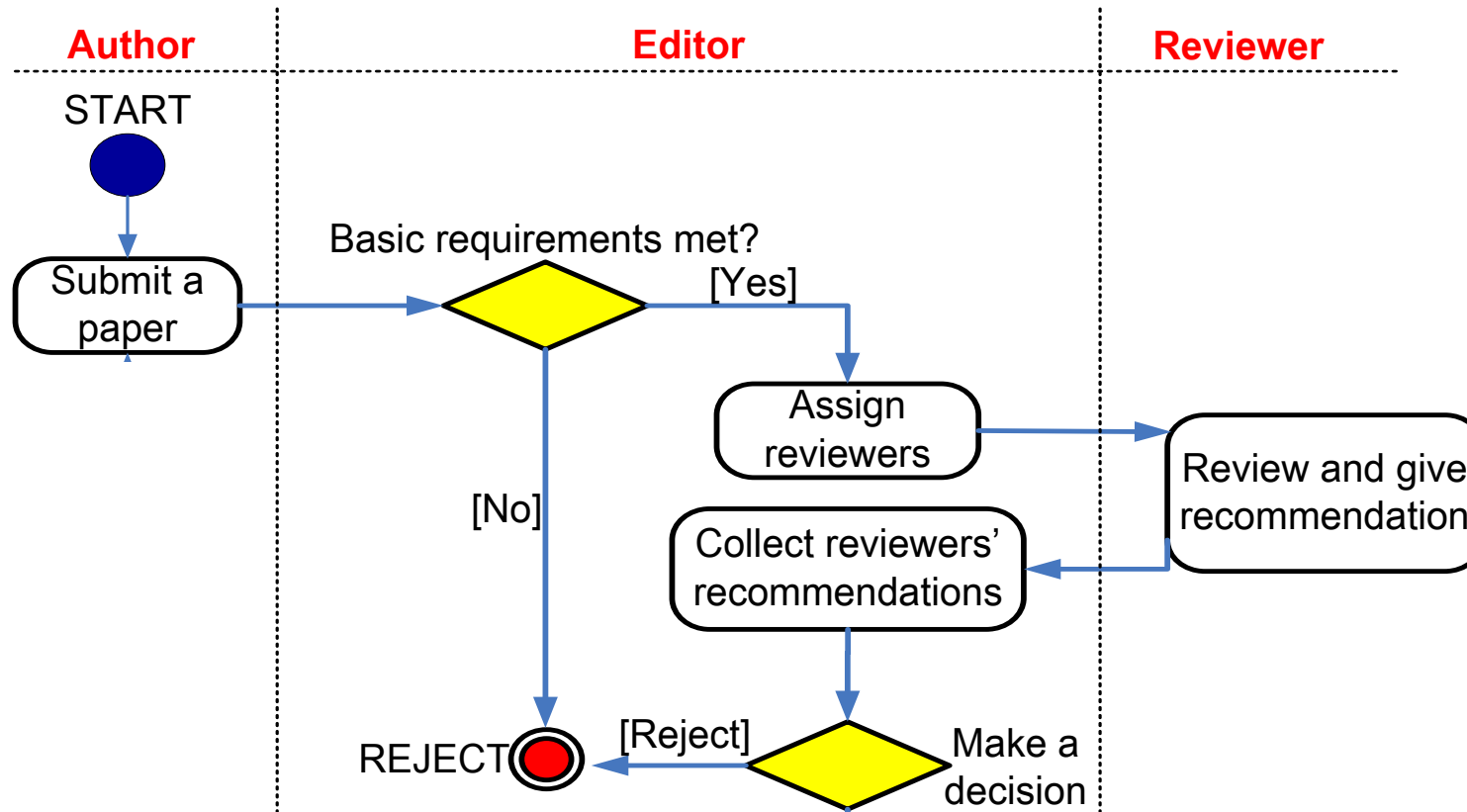
- **Not sent out for review.** Sad, but thankfully usually quick and can try another journal.
- **Should not take longer than a few weeks**
 - If status remains 'with editor' for more than a month, can politely inquire as to status
- **Some reasons for desk rejects:**
 - Outside the scope of the journal / not a good fit for the journal
 - Topically
 - Readership
 - Geographical scope
 - Impact
 - Lack of interest
 - Not novel
 - Does not contribute to the field
 - Not properly contextualized
 - Poor structure
 - Not structured like an academic journal article
 - Not following journals writing guidelines

The review process



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Elsevier, Amsterdam

The review process



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Elsevier, Amsterdam

Why does this take so long???

Follow up if your paper has been under review for many months without any decision – it's OK to politely enquire



Peer review outcomes

- **Reject (if reviewed):** Sent for review, reviewers had major concerns.
- **Major revisions:** Sent for review, reviewers have asked for major revisions. Usually sent for re-review on resubmission. Does not guarantee eventual acceptance.
- **Minor revisions:** Sent for reviewer, reviewers asked for minor revisions. May be sent for re-review, or only editor review. Does not guarantee eventual acceptance, but higher likelihood of eventual acceptance.
- **Accept:** Celebration time!!

What to do if
your paper
was rejected



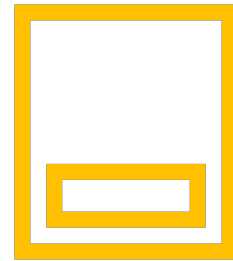
How to handle a paper rejection



Take a breath



Review comments and if
appropriate revise



Don't sit on it....submit
elsewhere!

Should I rebut/appeal a rejection?

- In the VAST majority of cases, NO.
- It is very unlikely to change the decision.
- Possible in RARE cases IF, for example, you have very strong evidence a review was incorrect or highly biased OR new data
- Anecdotally, this works best if you know / have a track record with the editor

ADDRESSING REVIEWER COMMENTS

BAD REVIEWS ON YOUR PAPER? FOLLOW THESE GUIDELINES AND YOU MAY YET GET IT PAST THE EDITOR:

Reviewer comment:

"The method/device/paradigm the authors propose is clearly wrong."

How NOT to respond:

✗ "Yes, we know. We thought we could still get a paper out of it. Sorry."

Correct response:

✓ "The reviewer raises an interesting concern. However, as the

Reviewer comment:

"The authors fail to reference the work of Smith et al., who solved the same problem 20 years ago."

How NOT to respond:

✗ "Huh. We didn't think anybody had read that. Actually, their solution is better than ours."

Correct response:

✓ "The reviewer raises an interesting concern. However, our work

Reviewer comment:

"This paper is poorly written and scientifically unsound. I do not recommend it for publication."

How NOT to respond:

✗ "You #&@*% reviewer! I know who you are! I'm gonna get you when it's my turn to review!"

Correct response:

✓ "The reviewer raises an interesting concern. However, we feel

Reviewer comments

- Ideally, reviewers provide **helpful** comments which you can use to **improve** your paper
- **RESIST the urge to argue.** No one likes to be argued with!
- If you can, agree with the reviewer and try to incorporate their suggestion if you can. If you strongly disagree, be very polite and explain why you disagree.
- Write a **point by point response**, ideally pointing to the exact place where you have made changes in the paper so it is easy for the reviewer to find these changes. The more work you make them do, the more annoyed they will be!
- If the reviewers disagree or suggest opposing things, can reach out to the editor for guidance

Example response:

Academic editor, comment 1. Throughout: I would suggest using the term "opioid agonist treatment" or "opioid partial agonist treatment", rather than "medication assisted treatment". See: Friedmann & Schwartz, Addict Sci Clin Pract. 2012 Jun 9;7:10. (That being said, I would caution against using the acronym OPAT, which has traditionally been used to describe outpatient parenteral antimicrobial therapy.)

Thanks

Author Reply: We thank the academic editor for this point and we have changed the wording to use "opioid agonist treatment" and the acronym OAT throughout. As well, at the first mention of OAT in the manuscript we have included a disclaimer that we are referring to both full opioid agonist treatment (such as methadone) and partial opioid agonist treatment (such as buprenorphine) in the introduction.

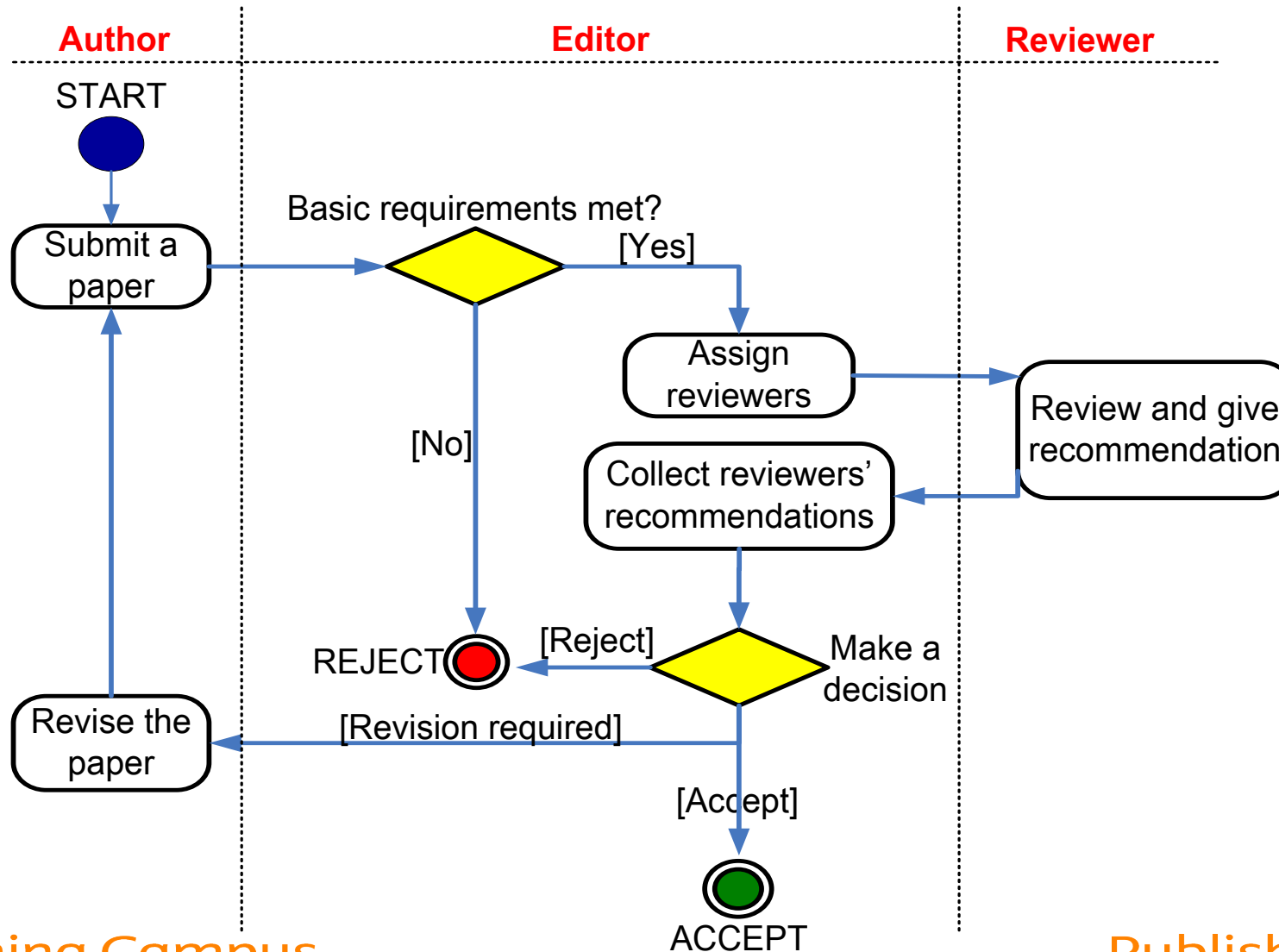
Description of changes

Specific page/line

Introduction (Page 7, Lines 134 - 138): Additionally, emerging research undertaken in Vancouver suggests that PWID who report recent (i.e., past 6 month) enrollment in opioid agonist treatment (OAT: referring both to full opioid agonist, methadone, and partial opioid agonist, buprenorphine) for opioid use disorder are at lower likelihood of reporting recently assisting an IDU initiation event of injection-naïve individuals (OR: 0.52, [95%CI: 0.31-0.87]).

Underlined edits

The review process



Slide: Anthony Newman
Elsevier, Amsterdam



Multiple iterations are common



And this can take a long time
(months)



Congratulations!!!

Some additional resources:

ELSEVIER How to publish in scholarly journals:

https://www.elsevier.com/__data/assets/pdf_file/0008/185687/Understanding-the-Publishing-Process_May2017_web-1.pdf

ICJME Authorship guidelines: <https://www.icmje.org/recommendations/browse/roles-and-responsibilities/defining-the-role-of-authors-and-contributors.html>