

Predatory Congress

Yırtıcı Kongreler

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To the Editor,

I read with great interest the article by Dr. Aslan with reference to his experience with predatory journals and publishers in view of the literature, published in Acta Med. Alanya 2018;2(3):136-137 [1]. The author described an serious issue that leads to a confusing situation when investigators are reviewing publication entities and I thank the author for this important contribution in clarifying a crucial topic that was lacking definitive data and that had received insufficient attention. Moreover, the other way of presenting scientific data, through scientific meetings, is also the source of some controversy. Indeed, as the final step for scientific studies and research results to be shared with fellow scientists and the scientific community at large, they are submitted to the academic congresses, in the related branch of science, leading to the publication of the final manuscript. In recent years, journals, congresses and similar academic entities have been found to be predatory in their interests in commercial gain and academic promotion [1,2].

As a result of changes in laws and regulations in our country, it has become obligatory for Doctor Lecturer, Associate Professor, and Professorship assignments to make presentations to a certain number of national and international Congresses. In particular, points and financial gains can be obtained from these congress presentations, within the scope of the academic promotion system of the Higher Education Council and the Ministry of Health. To illustrate this point, it has come to light in recent years that the organizations will present the articles and allow oral presentations, in exchange for the payment of a fee [3]. The aim of the existence of these organizations is to meet the demands of multidisciplinary science, not to favor one particular scientific field in exchange for a fee [4]. They are supposed to perform activities that include international book printing and ISBN numbering [5]. However, the predatory practices of these journals, symposiums and congresses do not contribute to the progress and development of science; their function of gathering the relevant science branches, discussing ideas, presenting

and discussing new scientific data, is not being performed [6].

In recent years, these practices, which have threatened the scientific community, have been recognized by the Higher Education Council; restrictions have been placed on predator journals and additional measures are on the agenda for the near future. This hazard has been reported in the literature [7,8] and although such congresses and journals may appear to contribute to the authors in the short term, they pose a great danger to them in the long-term: these money-oriented organizations, which seek only to benefit themselves and their associated magazines have no ethical concerns, which can create catastrophic problems for the authors.

The damage of predatory practices to the scientific community and their repercussions in international literature by congress organizations, are of grave concern; the *Acta Medica Alanya: Journal of Alanya Alaaddin Keykubat University Faculty of Medicine* would like to draw attention to this rising threat and its associated consequences.

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