Do potential predatory journals and mainstream ones differ in handling retractions?

(work in progress)

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Journal Quality Control

- Pre-publication: peer review
- Post-publication: correction + retraction

Journal classification by quality

- Legitimate journals > Potential predatory journals (PPJs) > Predatory journals.
- Various characteristics identified are used as criteria for defining PPJs.
- Predatory journals are criticized for/defined by their lack of (rigorous) peer review.
- Journal performance in retraction handling can be utilized as an additional criterion for identifying PPJs.

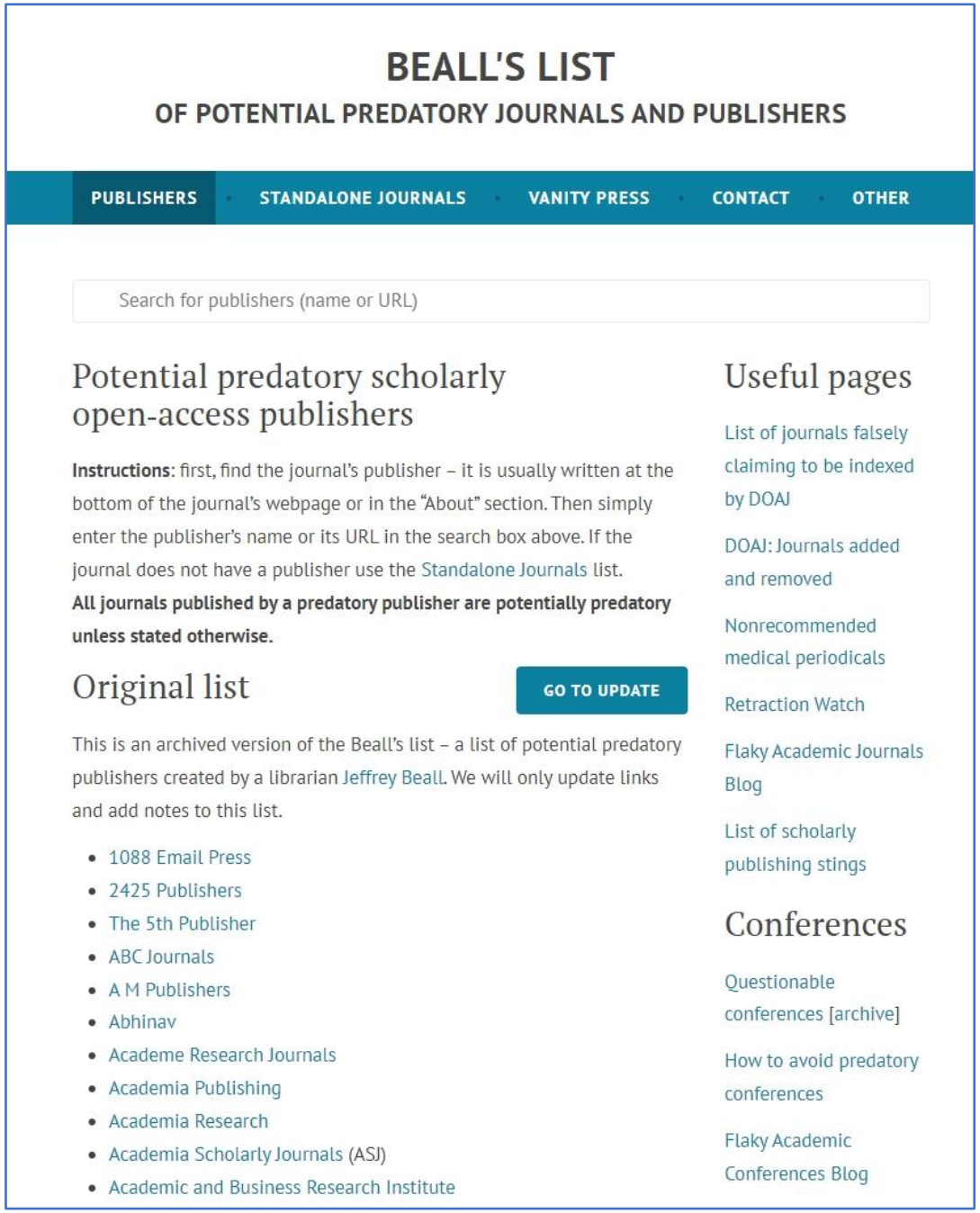
Beall's List

of Potential Predatory Journals (PPJs) and Publishers (PPPs)
https://beallslist.net/

- Curated by Jeffrey Beall, a former librarian at the University of Colorado Denver.
- Criticized for the unreliability and subjectivity of its inclusion criteria.
- Suspended in January 2017.
- Revived and updated by an anonymous researcher.
- Data coverage: 1,511 stand-alone PPJs + 1,327 PPPs.

Research objectives

- To identify retractions by the standalone PPJs on the updated Beall's List.
- To develop a framework for assessing journal performance in retraction handling.
- To assess the PPJs' performance in retraction handling.
- To compare retraction-handling performance between PPJs and legitimate ones (?)



BEALL'S LIST

OF POTENTIAL PREDATORY JOURNALS AND PUBLISHERS

PUBLISHERS · STANDALONE JOURNALS · VANITY PRESS · CONTACT · OTHER

Search for publishers (name or URL)

Potential predatory scholarly open-access publishers

Instructions: first, find the journal's publisher – it is usually written at the bottom of the journal's webpage or in the "About" section. Then simply enter the publisher's name or its URL in the search box above. If the journal does not have a publisher use the Standalone Journals list.
All journals published by a predatory publisher are potentially predatory unless stated otherwise.

Original list

GO TO UPDATE

This is an archived version of the Beall's list – a list of potential predatory publishers created by a librarian Jeffrey Beall. We will only update links and add notes to this list.

- 1088 Email Press
- 2425 Publishers
- The 5th Publisher
- ABC Journals
- A M Publishers
- Abhinav
- Academe Research Journals
- Academia Publishing
- Academia Research
- Academia Scholarly Journals (ASJ)
- Academic and Business Research Institute

Useful pages

List of journals falsely claiming to be indexed by DOAJ

DOAJ: Journals added and removed

Nonrecommended medical periodicals

Retraction Watch

Flaky Academic Journals Blog

List of scholarly publishing stings

Conferences

Questionable conferences [archive]

How to avoid predatory conferences

Flaky Academic Conferences Blog

❖ Framework for assessing journal performance in retraction handling (COPE Council, 2019; NISO, 2023; Oransky, 2015; Xu & Hu, 2021, 2023, 2024).

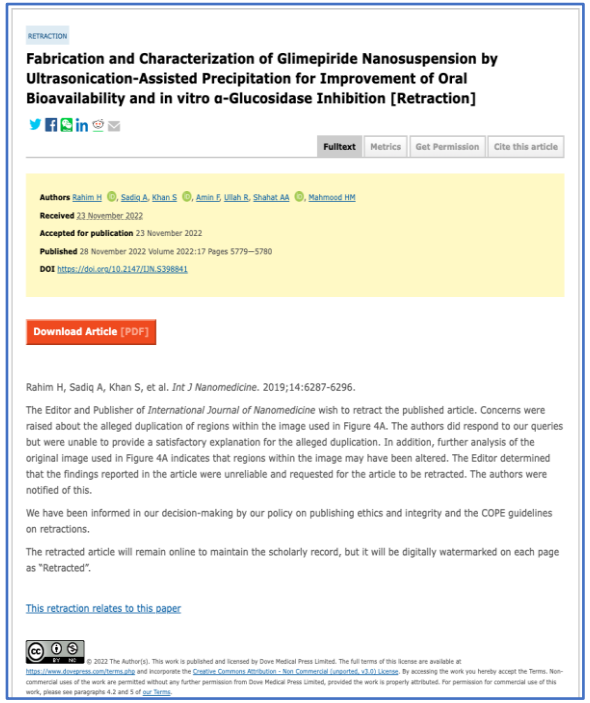
- 34 unique indicators
- 6 primary + 16 secondary + 16 tertiary indictors

❖ Key findings

- PPJ retractions
  - 645 retractions by 45 PPJs as archived by the RWDB.
  - Rate of retracting PPJs: 3.0% (45 x 100/1,511).
- Silent retraction rate
  - 145 publications retracted with a retraction notice;
  - Silent retraction rate: 77.% ((645-145)x100/645).
- Overall poor PPJ performance in retraction handling
  - 90-100%: 7 in green
  - 80-90%: 4 in blue
  - 60-70%: 1 in orange
  - 50-60%: 5 indicators in brown
  - < 50%: 17
- Changes over time
  - 645 retractions documented by RWDB as of 2022;
  - 420 retractions located in January 2024 ;
  - 414 retractions located in May 2025;
  - Performance decline in the first 8 indicators.

Indicators of journal performance in retraction handling	2024/01		2024/05	
	f	%	*f*	%
1. Availability of a retraction policy (*N* = 45)	26	57.8	24	53.3
2. Accessibility of the retracted publication (*N* = 645)	420	65.1	414	64.2
3. Accessibility of the retraction notice (*N* = 645)	145	22.5	137	21.2
4. Connectivity between the two corresponding documents (*N* =645)	106	16.4	96	14.9
5. Retraction visibility (*N* = 645)				
5.1 The retraction notice title indicating retraction	142	22.0	134	20.8
5.2 The retraction notice being available in PDF format	139	21.6	131	20.3
5.3 One retraction notice for one retracted publication	136	21.1	135	20.9
5.4 The retracted publication being watermarked	109	16.9	101	15.7
5.5 The HTML of the retraction notice enabling sharing	89	13.8	89	13.8
6. Informativeness of the retraction notice in PDF format (*N* =139)				
6.1 Bibliographic information of the retraction notice				
6.1.1 Journal title	130	93.5		
6.1.2 Volume, issue, and page	128	92.1		
6.1.3 Title	123	88.5		
6.1.4 Publication date	123	88.5		
6.1.5 Publisher name	81	58.3		
6.1.6 DOI	81	58.3		
6.1.7 Author name(s)	12	8.6		
6.1.8 Author affiliation(s)	1	0.7		
6.2 Bibliographic information of the retracted publication				
6.2.1 Title	138	99.3		
6.2.2 Journal title	134	96.4		
6.2.3 Author name(s)	134	96.4		
6.2.4 Publication date	131	94.2		
6.2.5 Volume, issue, and page	130	93.5		
6.2.6 Publisher name	81	58.3		
6.2.7 DOI	37	26.6		
6.2.8 Author affiliation(s)	33	23.7		
6.3 Retraction reason(s)	124	89.2		
6.4 Indication of agents of key acts	113	81.3		
6.5 Allegation(s) against the retracted publication	79	56.8		
6.6 Investigation(s) into the allegation(s)	75	54.0		
6.7 Act of performing retraction	73	52.5		
6.8 Request for retraction	66	47.5		
6.9 Announcement of retraction	63	45.3		
6.10 Indication of availability of the retracted publication	53	38.1		
6.11 Indication of time points of key acts	11	7.9		

- *International Journal of Nanomedicine* (*n* = 50) and *Oncotarget* (*n* = 25), accounting for 52% of the 145 retraction notices available for analysis.
- The 2 PPJs included in SCIE remarkably outperformed other PPJs in retraction handling.
- *Journal of Fundamental and Applied Sciences* (*n* = 420 silent retractions) and *International Journal of Electrochemical Science* (*n* = 24)
- The reliability of Beall's List of standalone PPJs is questioned in terms of some PPJs' outstanding performance in retraction handling.
- Journal performance in retraction handling should be considered as an additional journal selection criterion of Web of Science Core Collection.
- Journal quality can be dynamic, and legitimate journals, even prestigious ones, may not outperform some so-called PPJs in retraction handling.



RETRACTION

Fabrication and Characterization of Glimepiride Nanosuspension by Ultrasonication-Assisted Precipitation for Improvement of Oral Bioavailability and in vitro α-Glucosidase Inhibition [Retraction]

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Authors Rahim H, Sadiq A, Khan S, Amin F, Ullah R, Shahat AA, Mahmood HM

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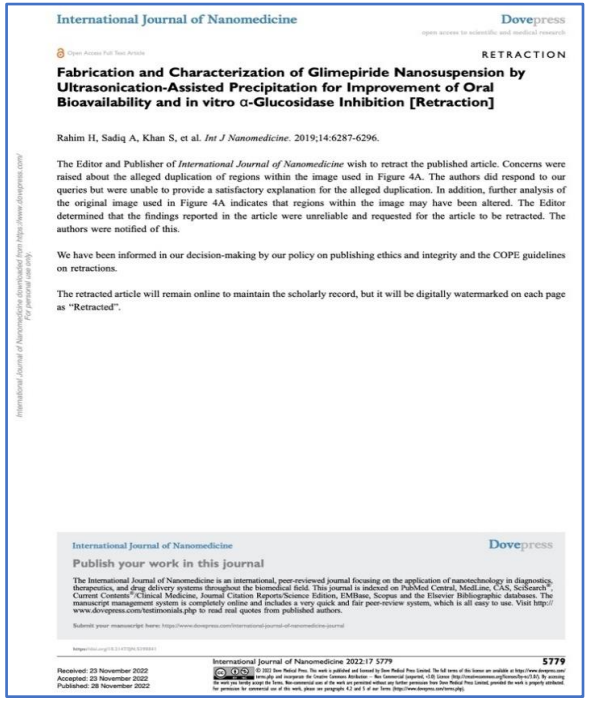
Rahim H, Sadiq A, Khan S, et al. *Int J Nanomedicine*. 2019;14:6287-6296.

The Editor and Publisher of *International Journal of Nanomedicine* wish to retract the published article. Concerns were raised about the alleged duplication of regions within the image used in Figure 4A. The authors did respond to our queries but were unable to provide a satisfactory explanation for the alleged duplication. In addition, further analysis of the original image used in Figure 4A indicates that regions within the image may have been altered. The Editor determined that the findings reported in the article were unreliable and requested for the article to be retracted. The authors were notified of this.

We have been informed in our decision-making by our policy on publishing ethics and integrity and the COPE guidelines on retractions.

The retracted article will remain online to maintain the scholarly record, but it will be digitally watermarked on each page as "Retracted".

This retraction relates to this paper



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International Journal of Nanomedicine — Dovepress

ORIGINAL RESEARCH

RETRACTED ARTICLE: Fabrication and characterization of glimepiride nanosuspension by ultrasonication-assisted precipitation for improvement of oral bioavailability and in vitro α-glucosidase inhibition

RETRACTED

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Purpose: We aimed to enhance the solubility, dissolution rate, oral bioavailability, and α-glucosidase inhibition of glimepiride (Glm) by fabricating its nanosuspension using a precipitation–ultrasonication approach.

Methods: Glm nanosuspensions were fabricated using optimized processing conditions. Characterization of Glm was performed using Malvern Zetasizer, scanning electron microscopy, transmission electron microscopy, differential scanning calorimetry, and powder X-ray diffraction. Minimum particle size and polydispersity index (PDI) values were found to be 152.4±2.42 nm and 0.23±0.[illegible], respectively, using hydroxypropyl methylcellulose: 6 cPs, 1% w/v, polyvinylpyrrolidone K30 1% w/v, and sodium lauryl sulfate 0.12% w/v, keeping ultrasonication power [illegible]0 W, with 15 minutes' processing at 3-second pauses. In-vivo oral bioavailability was assessed using rabbits as a model.

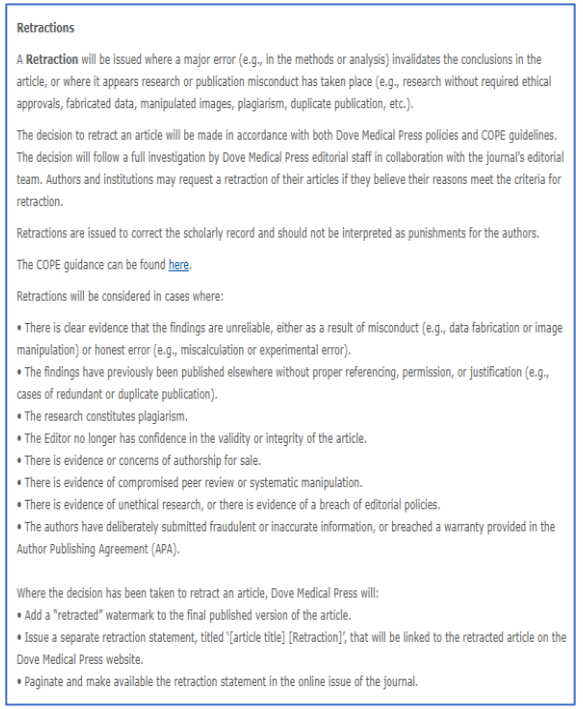
Results: The saturation solubility of the Glm nanosuspensions was substantially enhanced 3.14-[illegible] and 5.[illegible]-fold compared to unprocessed drug in stabilizer solution and unprocessed active pharmaceutical ingredient. Also, the dissolution rate of the nanosuspensions was substantially boosted when compared to the marketed formulation and unprocessed drug candidate. The results showed that 95% of Glm nanosuspensions dissolved in the first 10 minutes compared to 10.17% of unprocessed Glm), 42.19% of microsuspensions, and 19.94% of marketed tablets. In-vivo studies conducted in animals, i.e. rabbits, demonstrated that maximum concentration and AUC_{0-24} with oral dosing were twofold (5 mg/kg) and 1.74-fold (2.5 mg/kg) and 1.80-fold (5 mg/kg) and 1.63-fold (2.5 mg/kg), respectively, and compared with the unprocessed drug formulation. In-vitro α-glucosidase inhibition results showed that fabricated nanosuspensions had a pronounced effect compared to unprocessed drug.

Conclusion: The optimized batch fabricated by ultrasonication-assisted precipitation can be useful in boosting oral bioavailability, which may be accredited to enhanced solubility and dissolution rate of Glm, ultimately resulting in its faster rate of absorption due to nanonization.

Keywords: glimepiride nanosuspension, precipitation–ultrasonication approach, boosted bioavailability

Introduction

It has been observed that many active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) display low aqueous solubility and bioavailability during the drug-development stage.[1] Recently, nanosuspension has been successfully fabricated to overcome



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