

## ADVISORY ON PREDATORY PUBLISHING

The advisory comments provided below are intended to help faculty to guard against the risks of publishing with “so-called” predatory publishers, including having to pay open-access fee charges for articles appearing in journals of ill repute.

Some background on the dangers of predatory publishing may be found in the article below, "Investigating Journals: The Dark Side of Publishing," from *Nature: International Weekly Journal of Science*:

<http://www.nature.com/news/investigating-journals-the-dark-side-of-publishing-1.12666>

In this article, Declan Butler provides some guidance, quoted verbatim below, on identifying reputable publishers and on doing one’s due diligence:

- Check that the publisher provides full, verifiable contact information, including address, on the journal site. Be cautious of those that provide only web contact forms.
- Check that a journal’s editorial board lists recognized experts with full affiliations. Contact some of them and ask about their experience with the journal or publisher.
- Check that the journal prominently displays its policy for author fees.
- Be wary of e-mail invitations to submit to journals or to become editorial board members.
- Read some of the journal’s published articles and assess their quality. Contact past authors to ask about their experience.
- Check that a journal’s peer-review process is clearly described and try to confirm that a claimed impact factor is correct.
- Find out whether the journal is a member of an industry association that vets its members, such as the Directory of Open Access Journals ([www.doaj.org](http://www.doaj.org)) or the Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association ([www.oaspa.org](http://www.oaspa.org)).
- Use common sense, as you would when shopping online: if something looks fishy, proceed with caution.