

# Editor-in-chief's voice

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## *Scientific integrity also concerns editors and publishers*

Recently, there have been many dishonest propositions from scientific publishing houses and publishers. Authors receive offers to publish articles in journals of questionable reputability and often an unfairly created image which portrays a resemblance of a journal with high standards possessing an Impact Factor, generated by Clarivate Analytics (previously Thomson Reuters).

Many trademarks imitating the “original” Impact Factor have appeared. These trademarks entice authors to publish articles in journals which do not appear in the Science Citation Index Expanded database, managed by Clarivate Analytics. These journals of course have their own unique impact factors, but they are not indexed by Clarivate Analytics. Authors publish their articles in these journals only to later find out that they will not be indexed in the Science Citation Index Expanded database. Often, these articles cannot be then withdrawn because after an article is assigned a DOI number, it cannot be published in another journal as this would be considered plagiarism. Subsequently, these journals may demand up to a few thousand dollars from authors in order to withdraw their articles.

Why am I writing about this? I am writing about this because I think that editors and publishers must be honest and present credible offers to authors. In my opinion, impact factors that are not the result of parameters calculated by Clarivate Analytics should not be used, even if they are trademarks. In scientific research, the concept of an “Impact Factor” has existed for too

long for it to be used by other institutions, even if it is calculated fairly and called an “unofficial impact factor”. This is simply a case of scientific integrity.

The SCOPUS database has come up with a very good solution to this problem by naming their impact factor “CiteScore”. This is a fair approach to authors by publishers.

As editors and publishers, we must also have an honest approach to scientific research.

Dear authors, please look out for journals which advertise various new impact factors. Before you submit your articles to a journal, make sure to check first in which database it is indexed.

With kind regards,  
Tomasz Drewa



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