A COLLECTION OF DIAMOND OPEN-ACCESS MEDICAL JOURNALS INDEXED IN MEDLINE/PUBMED

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INTRODUCTION

Compared to their peers in developed economies, biomedical academics and researchers in low resource settings face enormous resource constraint in the conduct and publication of research.^{1,2} This, along with other factors like the *publish or perish* phenomenon, increases the risk of publishing with **predatory journals** which may be menacingly attractive to naïve early-career researchers (ECRs) from developing countries, usually under the promise of quick publishing and low article publication charges (APCs).^{3,4} On the other hand, exorbitant publication costs required for publishing with leading commercial publishing *giants* perhaps also increases the risk of ECRs falling *prey* to *predator* journals.^{5,6} Nonetheless, researchers are responsible to avoid unethical research practices, including publishing with predatory journals.^{3,7} Another factor that increases the risk of publication with predatory journals is *ignorance*- inadequate knowledge of the nuances of ascertaining the quality of journals.³

To aid researchers in avoiding predatory journals, some persons or organisations have published *blacklists* of predatory or potentially predatory journals; perhaps the most popular, but controversial, of this is the Beall's list.^{8–10} Others have proposed *whitelists* of high-quality journals (rather than a blacklist of potentially predatory journal) as a strategy for minimising the risk of publishing with predatory journals.^{10,11} The latter approach seems to have gained more acceptability among the scientific community. A major example of a *whitelist* is the **Directory of Open-Access Journals** (DOAJ) which is a large and growing collection of high-quality open-access (OA) journals.¹¹ Biomedical databases like Medline and Scopus® may also be regarded as *whitelists* of high-quality journals since they require some criteria for indexing.^{11–13}

The **open-access** model of journal publication (i.e. journals that are freely available to readers) is becoming more and more important in an era of *open science*, and this is even of more benefit to researchers in low-resource settings, save for the publication costs.^{5,14} Variants of OA journals includes *gold*, *green* and *diamond* or *platinum* OA journals (Figure 1).¹⁵ The latter, **diamond or platinum OA** journals, are peer-reviewed OA journals with no article processing charges (i.e. they are both *free to publish* and *immediately free to read*).¹⁵ These journals, compared to journals with APCs, are potentially less likely to be predatory since they require no APCs.

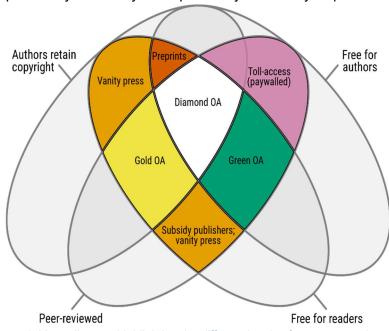


Figure 1. Venn diagram highlighting the different levels of open access in scholarly publishing, as a function of cost to the readers and authors, copyright retention, and peer review. Source: Farquharson (2022)... https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.21598179.v1; Licence: CC BY 4.0

Publishing well-conducted and valuable studies in predatory journals can be described as casting one's pearls to swine! 16 On the other hand, publishing with many OA journals is challenging to low-resourced researchers, especially in LMIC. Recently, an early-career researcher lamented in an email to a journal how he could not afford their APC as it amounted to his annual salary! It might be helpful if such ECRs are aware of diamond OA journals of no less quality and reputation than those of many highimpact OA journals with high publication cost. Thus, a collection of such medical iournals diamond/platinum OA model who are indexed in Medline/PubMed is compiled. It is assumed that being indexed in at least PubMed is a reasonable measure of journal quality. It is however acknowledged that there are high-quality Pubmed-indexed OA journals whose APCs are affordably low; also, many commercial journals give researchers from low-resource settings varying degrees

of APC waivers.⁵ However, the focus here is on those equally good journals that do not charge a dime (at least at the time of collation).

METHODOLOGY

First, a list of platinum OA medical journals was selected from the list of *platinum OA journals with impact factors* compiled by Joshua Pearce. This list was supplemented with additional platinum OA medical journals indexed on DOAJ (selected using its online filters). Searches were also made on Scientific Electronic Library Online (SCIELO, https://www.scielo.br/)-a database of journals mostly from Latin America, with the majority running the platinum OA model. Thereafter, the list was pruned to those indexed on Medline/PubMed by checking at each journal's websites. Other general searches were conducted on the websites of Elsevier, Wiley and ResearchGate, as well as general Google searches, to identify smaller lists or individual journals with the platinum OA model. Table 1 below shows a collection of the platinum OA medical journals indexed on PubMed/Medline found so far.

RESULTS AND BRIEF COMMENTS

Scientists in developing countries have severely limited access to both published scientific reports and publishing their own works. While the former is often due to limited access to pay-walled articles, the latter is limited by access to research funding and other resources. 1,17 Widespread availability and access to diamond OA can potentially address both factors in such settings- free access to readers and free publication for authors (while acknowledging other measures to increase journal access to readers such as HINARI initiative, or APC-waiving measures of some commercial publishers). 5,17 Interestingly, the majority of the journals in this collection are sponsored by professional/scientific societies or organisations in South America and Asia; few of them emanate from Africa, North America and Europe. Also, about two-thirds of the journals in this collection have valid impact factors, including impressive ones (another indicator of their quality).

LIMITATION AND CONCLUSION

While there is a large and growing collection of OA medical journals, the focus of this initiative is to identify a subset of these OA journals that run the platinum/diamond OA model and that are listed on Medline/PubMed (with or without additional listing on Scopus®) as a quality check mechanism (additionally, most of the journals in this collection are also listed on DOAJ). This collection is not however an exhaustive list of medical journals with diamond OA model. It is somewhat biased towards general medical and paediatric medicine and their specialties; surgery and other fields of medicine are less represented (this is more of a reflection of my specialty bias, rather than of true representation of the distribution of platinum OA journals). It is however hoped that it would be helpful, as a starting point, especially to ECRs in need of quality medical journals with ethical publication and peer review practices. Although it is fair to assume that being indexed in databases like Medline/PubMed and Scopus® provides some level of quality checks, some authors have raised concerns of predatory journals being indexed in such databases. On the other hand, how the suspected journals were determined as predatory has also been flawed. Nonetheless, researchers need to carefully check and choose high-quality journals, for example through the *think-check-submit* approach (https://thinkchecksubmit.org/). Also, the indexing nature of the journals in this collection were not specifically verified on Medline/PubMed. It should be noted that a journal's publishing model may change from platinum to other forms of OA that require APC. Hence, users of this list should check with each journal's current publishing model.

Perhaps, it may be prudent for research institutions with scarce research funds to channel their little funds to supporting the actual conduct of research, rather than providing researchers with fund to publish with journals with costly APC. 1,5,6,17 Possibly, the more authors publish with diamond OA journals, the more the quality of such journals might improve, including in their impact factor; this may also result in more support from their sponsoring organisations who are mostly driven by the *spirit* of open science. It is hoped that this collection will be expanded and updated hereafter, including collaboratively. Feedbacks and suggestions are welcomed.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I acknowledge the use of list from Joshua Pearse which was also derived from DOAJ, and others earlier mentioned in the methods. All opinions are mine, except where otherwise indicated. The information in this collection were extracted from the respective journal websites. Any omission or error is regretted, and would be hopefully corrected in subsequent update.

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TABLE 1. LIST OF DIAMOND (PLATINUM) OPEN-ACCESS MEDICAL JOURNALS INDEXED ON PUBMED WITH OR WITHOUT SCOPUS

NAME OF JOURNAL	WEBSITE (Note: avoid breaks in web link after copying and pasting into browser)	IMPACT FACTOR (2022/23)	INDEXER* (PubMed, Scopus)	LANGUAGE OF PUBLISHING	PUBLISHER	SPONSOR/OWNER ORGANISATION	REMARKS
ALLER	RGOLOGY						
Allergology International	https://www.sci encedirect.com /journal/allergol ogy- international	6.8	PUBMED; SCOPUS	ENGLISH	ELSEVIER	Japanese Society of Allergology	The Article Publishing Charge (APC) fee will be covered by Japanese Society of Allergology for all articles published in 2023 - 2025 issues.
ANAE	STHESIA						
Brazilian Journal of Anesthesiolo gy (BJAN)	https://www.bja n-sba.org	1.3	PUBMED; SCOPUS	ENGLISH;PO RTUGUESE	Brazilian Society of Anesthesiolog y (Sociedade Brasileira de Anestesiologia SBA)	Brazilian Society of Anesthesiology (Sociedade Brasileira de Anestesiologia SBA)	
CARD	OIOLOGY						
Arquivos Brasileiros de Cardiologia	https://abccardi ol.org/en/	2.6	PUBMED; SCOPUS	ENGLISH;PO RTUGUESE	Brazilian Society of Cardiology	Brazilian Society of Cardiology	
Indian Pacing and Electrophysi ology Journal (IPEJ)	https://www.sci encedirect.com /journal/indian- pacing-and- electrophysiolo gy-journal	Not available	PUBMED; SCOPUS	ENGLISH	ELSEVIER	Indian Heart Rhythm Society	
Egyptian Heart Journal	https://tehj.spri ngeropen.com	1.1	PUBMED; SCOPUS	ENGLISH	Springer	Egyptian Society of Cardiology	
CRITICAL C	ARE MEDICINE						
Critical Care Science	http://criticalcar escience.org.br	Not available	PUBMED; SCOPUS	ENGLISH;PO RTUGUESE	Brazilian Intensive Care Medicine Association (AMIB) and the Portuguese Society for Intensive Care (SPCI)	Brazilian Intensive Care Medicine Association (AMIB) and the Portuguese Society for Intensive Care (SPCI)	

DERMA	ATOLOGY						
Anais Brasileiros de Dermatologi a	https://www.els evier.com/journ als/anais- brasileiros-de- dermatologia/0 365- 0596/open- access-journal	2.1	PUBMED; SCOPUS	ENGLISH;PO RTUGUESE	ELSEVIER	The Brazilian Society of Dermatology	The Brazilian Society of Dermatology will pay the APCs of all accepted papers
	NMENTAL POLLUTION						
Journal of Health and Pollution	https://ehp.nieh s.nih.gov/jhp	Not available	PUBMED	ENGLISH	National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)	National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), Durham, UK	
Environment al Health Perspectives (EHP)	https://ehp.nieh s.nih.gov/	10.4	PUBMED	ENGLISH	National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences	National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences	
FAMILY	MEDICINE						
Annals of Family Medicine	https://www.an nfammed.org	5.7	PUBMED	ENGLISH	Annals of Family Medicine is a collaborative effort of seven family medicine organizations: American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) American Board of Family Medicine (ABFM) Society of Teachers of Family Medicine (STFM) Association of Departments of Family Medicine (ADFM) Association of Family Medicine (ADFM) Residency	Annals of Family Medicine is a collaborative effort of seven family medicine organizations: American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) American Board of Family Medicine (ABFM) Society of Teachers of Family Medicine (STFM) Association of Departments of Family Medicine (ADFM) Association of Family Medicine (ADFM) Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors (AFMRD) North American Primary Care Research Group (NAPCRG) College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC	

					Directors (AFMRD) North American Primary Care Research Group (NAPCRG) College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC		
GASTROE	NTEROLOGY		DUDMED.		Instituto		
Arquivos de Gastroenter ologia (Archives of Gastroenter ology)	https://www.sci elo.br/j/spmj/	Not available	PUBMED; SCOPUS	ENGLISH	Brasileiro de Estudos e Pesquisas de Gastroenterolo gia e Outras Especialidade s â€" IBEPEGE (Brazilian Institute for Studies and Research in Gastroenterolo gy and Other Specialties	Instituto Brasileiro de Estudos e Pesquisas de Gastroenterologia e Outras Especialidades – IBEPEGE (Brazilian Institute for Studies and Research in Gastroenterology and Other Specialties	
Revista de Gastroenter ologÃa de México (Mexican Journal of Gastroenter ology)	http://www.revi stagastroentero logiamexico.org /	1.6	PUBMED; SCOPUS	ENGLISH;SP ANISH	ELSEVIER	Asociación Mexicana de GastroenterologÃa (Mexican Association of Gastroenterology). t	
Annals of	h.H.a.//		PUBMED;		Hellenic	Hallania Occiatorat	
Gastroenter ology	http://www.ann alsgastro.gr	2.2	SCOPUS	ENGLISH;	Society of Gastroenterolo gy	Hellenic Society of Gastroenterology	
	L MEDICINE						
Balkan Medical Journal	https://balkanm edicaljournal.or g/index.php	3	PUBMED; SCOPUS	ENGLISH	Galenos Publishing House	Filiz Akata on Behalf of Trakya University School of Medicine	
Croatian Medical Journal	http://www.cmj. hr	1.9	PUBMED; SCOPUS	ENGLISH	3 Croatian Medical Schools (University Rijeka, Split and Zagreb)	3 Croatian Medical Schools (University Rijeka, Split and Zagreb)	
Ghana Medical Journal	https://www.gh anamedj.org/	Not available	PUBMED; SCOPUS	ENGLISH	Ghana Medical Association	Ghana Medical Association, supported by African	

Hong Kong Medical Journal	https://www.hk amedtrack.org/ hkmj/home	3.7	PUBMED; SCOPUS	ENGLISH	Hong Kong Academy of Medicine	Health Journals Partnership Project funded by the US National Institutes of Health (through the National Library of Medicine and the Fogarty International Center) Hong Kong Academy of Medicine and Hong Kong Medical Association	
African Health Sciences	https://africanh ealthsciences.o	Not available	PUBMED	ENGLISH	African Health Sciences	Faculty of Medicine, Makerere University	
Annals of Saudi Medicine	https://www.an nsaudimed.net	1.7	PUBMED; SCOPUS	ENGLISH	King Faisal Specialist Hospital & Research Centre.	King Faisal Specialist Hospital & Research Centre.	
Journal of Postgraduat e Medicine	https://www.jpg monline.com	1.6	PUBMED; SCOPUS	ENGLISH	Medknow Publisher	Staff Society of Seth G. S. Medical College and K. E. M. Hospital, Mumbai, India	
Acta Clinica Croatica	https://actaclini ca.eu	0.6	PUBMED; SCOPUS	ENGLISH	Ministry of Science, Education and Sports of the Republic of Croatia	Ministry of Science, Education and Sports of the Republic of Croatia	
Ethiopian- Journal of Health Sciences	https://www.eth jhealths.org/	1.2	PUBMED; SCOPUS	ENGLISH	College of Health Science of Jimma University	College of Health Science of Jimma University, Ethiopia	EJHS is an Open Access (Gold) Journal where readers have accesses to full text for free while authors are expected to pay to publish. However, as the publication cost is being covered by Jimma University (the owner of EJHS) for the coming few months, authors do not pay to publish
GENERAL PAEDIATRICS			DUDATES				
Anales de Pediatria (Annals of Pediatrics)	https://www.an alesdepediatria .org/	2.1	PUBMED; SCOPUS	ENGLISH;SP ANISH	ELSEVIER	Spanish Association of Pediatrics	

Pediatric Investigation	https://onlinelibr ary.wiley.com/j ournal/2574227 2	2.2	PUBMED; SCOPUS	ENGLISH	WILEY	Chinese Medical Association	
Clinical & Experimenta I Paediatrics	e-cep.org	4.2	PUBMED; SCOPUS	ENGLISH	Korean Pediatric Society	Korean Pediatric Society	
Sudanese Journal of Paediatrics	https://www.su danjp.com/	Not available	PUBMED	ENGLISH	Sudan Association of Paediatrics	Sudan Association of Paediatrics	
Turkish Archives of Paediatrics	https://turkarch pediatr.org	Not available	PUBMED; SCOPUS	ENGLISH	Turkish Paediatrics Association	Turkish Paediatrics Association	
Revista Paulista de Pediatria	https://www.sci elo.br/j/rpp/	Not available	PUBMED; SCOPUS	ENGLISH;PO RTUGUESE	Soc de Pediatria de SÃo Paulo	Soc de Pediatria de SÃo Paulo	
Pediatrics and Neonatology	https://www.sci encedirect.com /journal/pediatri cs-and- neonatology	2.1	PUBMED; SCOPUS	ENGLISH	ELSEVIER	Taiwan Pediatric Association and Taiwan Society of Neonatology	No charge for manuscripts not exceeding a total of 10 printed pages; authors will pay for pages in excess of this
LABORATO	ORY MEDICINE						
Biochemia Medica	https://www.bio chemia- medica.com	2.515	PUBMED; SCOPUS	ENGLISH	Croatian Society of Medical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine	Croatian Society of Medical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine	
	GY/PERINATOL DGY			PUBMED; SCOPUS			
Journal of Neonatal- Perinatal Medicine	https://www.jnp m.org	not available	PUBMED; SCOPUS	ENGLISH	IOS Press BV	IOS Press BV	
NEPH	ROLOGY						
Nefrologia	https://www.rev istanefrologia.c om	2.6	PUBMED; SCOPUS	ENGLISH	ELSEVIER	Spanish Society of Nephrology	
Brazilian Journal of Nephrology	https://www.sci elo.br/j/jbn/	Not available	PUBMED; SCOPUS	ENGLISH;PO RTUGUESE	Brazilian Society of Nephrology	Sociedade Brasileira de Nefrologia (Brazilian Society of Nephrology)	
	ROLOGY						
Annals of Indian academy of neurology	https://journals.l ww.com/annals ofian	1.7	PUBMED; SCOPUS	ENGLISH	Wolters Kluwer Medknow	Indian Academy of Neurology	
NEUROLOG IA	https://www.sci encedirect.com /journal/neurolo gia	3.9	PUBMED; SCOPUS	ENGLISH;SP ANISH	ELSEVIER	Spanish Neurology Society	The ""Sociedad Española de NeurologÃa"" pays for the publishing costs incurred by

ODSTETDICS	//GYNAECOLOG						the journal. Authors do not have to pay any Article Processing Charge or Open Access Publication Fee.
OBSTETRICS	Y						
Revista Brasileira de Ginecologia e ObstetrÃ- cia (RBGO)	https://lp.thiem e.de/journals/rb go-gynecology- und- obstetrics/0100 -7203	1.2	PUBMED; SCOPUS	ENGLISH	THIEME	Brazilian Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics Associations (Febrasgo)	
PAEDIATRIC	CARDIOLOGY						
Annals of Pediatric Cardiology	https://journals.l ww.com/aopc/p ages/default.as px	0.7	PUBMED; SCOPUS	ENGLISH	Wolters Kluwer Medknow	Pediatric Cardiac Society of India	
PAEDIATRIC	ENDOCRINOLOG	Υ					
Annals of Pediatric Endocrinolo gy & Metabolism	https://e- apem.org	Not available	PUBMED; SCOPUS	ENGLISH	Korean Society of Pediatric Endocrinology	Korean Society of Pediatric Endocrinology	
PAEDIATRIC	QUALITY IMPRO	/EMENT/SAI	ETY				
Pediatric Quality and Safety	https://journals.l ww.com/pqs/Pa ges/default.asp x	1.1	PUBMED	ENGLISH	Wolters Kluwer	Nationwide Children's Hospital.	
PULMO	NOLOGY						
Jornal Brasileiro de Pneumologi a	https://www.sci elo.br/journal/jb pneu/about/#ab out	Not available	PUBMED; SCOPUS	ENGLISH	Sociedade Brasileira de Pneumologia e Tisiologia	Sociedade Brasileira de Pneumologia e Tisiologia	
Pulmonology Journal	https://www.jou rnalpulmonolog y.org/en	11.7	PUBMED; SCOPUS	ENGLISH	Portuguese Society of Pulmonology	Portuguese Society of Pulmonology	
Lung India	https://journals.l ww.com/lungin dia/pages/defa ult.aspx	1.6	PUBMED; SCOPUS	ENGLISH	Wolters Kluwer – Medknow	Indian Chest Society	
RHEUM	ATOLOGY						
Advances in Rheumatolo gy	https://www.sci elo.br/j/adr/	Not available	PUBMED; SCOPUS	ENGLISH	Brazilian Society of Rheumatology (Sociedade Brasileira de Reumatologia)	Brazilian Society of Rheumatology (Sociedade Brasileira de Reumatologia)	
SPORT MEDICINE							
Journal of Sport and Health Science	https://www.sci encedirect.com /journal/journal-	11.7	PUBMED; SCOPUS	ENGLISH	ELSEVIER	Shanghai University of Sport	

	of-sport-and- health-science						
SURGICAL	SPECIALTIES						
Brazilian Journal of Cardiovascul ar Surgery	https://www.bjc vs.org	1.283	PUBMED; SCOPUS	ENGLISH	Sociedade Brasileira de Cirurgia Cardiovascula r (SBCCV)	Sociedade Brasileira de Cirurgia Cardiovascular (SBCCV)	
Turkish Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascul ar Surgery	https://tgkdc.de rgisi.org	Not available	PUBMED; SCOPUS	ENGLISH	Turkish Society of Cardiovascula r Surgery/Turkis h Society of Thoracic Surgery	Turkish Society of Cardiovascular Surgery/Turkish Society of Thoracic Surgery	
Polish Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascul ar Surgery	https://www.ter media.pl/Journ al/Kardiochirurg ia_i_Torakochir urgia_Polska- 40	0.7	PUBMED; SCOPUS	ENGLISH	Termedia Publishing House	Polish Society of Cardiothoracic Surgeons	
Indian Journal of Plastic Surgery	https://www.thi eme.in/Indian- Journal-of- Plastic-Surgery	0.8	PUBMED; SCOPUS	ENGLISH	THIEME	Association of Plastic Surgeons of India	
Prostate International	https://www.sci encedirect.com /journal/prostat e-international	3	PUBMED; SCOPUS	ENGLISH	ELSEVIER	Asian Pacific Prostate Society	The Article Publishing Charge (APC) fee will be covered by Asian Pacific Prostate Society for all articles submitted by 31 December 2025
TROPICA	TROPICAL MEDICINE						
Journal of the Brazilian Society of Tropical Medicine (JBSTM)	https://www.sci elo.br/j/rsbmt/	Not available	PUBMED; SCOPUS	ENGLISH	Brazilian Journal of Tropical Medicine	Brazilian Journal of Tropical Medicine	

^{*}Indexed in PubMed/Medlline, or deposited in PubMed Central

 $\textbf{Sources}: \ \, \textbf{Joshua Pearce (https://doi.org/10.3390/knowledge2020013), DOAJ, Scielo, Elsevier, \, , \, etc. \, \, \textbf{Sources}: \, \textbf{Joshua Pearce (https://doi.org/10.3390/knowledge2020013), DOAJ, Scielo, Elsevier, \, , \, etc. \, \, \textbf{Sources}: \, \textbf{Joshua Pearce (https://doi.org/10.3390/knowledge2020013), DOAJ, Scielo, Elsevier, \, , \, etc. \, \, \textbf{Sources}: \, \textbf{Joshua Pearce (https://doi.org/10.3390/knowledge2020013), DOAJ, Scielo, Elsevier, \, , \, etc. \, \, \textbf{Joshua Pearce (https://doi.org/10.3390/knowledge2020013), DOAJ, Scielo, Elsevier, \, , \, etc. \, \, \textbf{Joshua Pearce (https://doi.org/10.3390/knowledge2020013), DOAJ, Scielo, Elsevier, \, , \, etc. \, \, \textbf{Joshua Pearce (https://doi.org/10.3390/knowledge2020013), DOAJ, Scielo, Elsevier, \, , \, etc. \, \, \textbf{Joshua Pearce (https://doi.org/10.3390/knowledge2020013), DOAJ, Scielo, Elsevier, \, , \, etc. \, \, \textbf{Joshua Pearce (https://doi.org/10.3390/knowledge2020013), DOAJ, Box and Box and$

Acknowledgement: the information in this table were extracted from each journal's websites. Any omission or error is regretted.