

Editorial

Beware of Editors Bearing Gifts

The title of this editorial is taken from the stories of Homer set 3500 years ago in the Trojan wars. After a decade of conflict in which many had died, the Greek army besieging the city of Troy appeared to withdraw leaving just a large wooden horse. The Trojans were warned by their wise men not to touch this gift but the Trojans were in party mood. The wooden horse was collected and brought into the city and then the Trojans had a great party. In the early hours of the morning, a door opened in the belly of the wooden horse and a group of Greek soldiers emerged, they opened the gates of the city to the Greek army which had only been hiding and not left. Within a few brief hours, the city of Troy was destroyed. Of course, I have changed the word "Greeks" in the original story to "editors."

The reason I write this warning is that there has been an explosion in the number of online journals which are now present. Many of us on a daily basis receive emails asking us for our research papers normally to be presented in a short time line. Only when you look more closely, you find that to actually submit your paper, you need to pay the journal money which can be as much as US \$2000 for a single paper.^[1] It may seem an attractive offer and some of these journals are actually very good, but before submitting a paper to such a journal, you need to have assurance of quality. It is worth looking at that journals' website and seeing how easy it is to download publications. Some of these journals may also charge readers to download your article, potentially increasing their income but also reducing the readership of your paper. It is of course possible to buy free access to your paper, but this may cost a further US \$5000. So, to do not be fooled like Trojans of old, look around and check before you decide to spend your hard-earned cash.

I do, however, recognize that nothing in the world is free and the excellent job which is done in compositing and producing the World Journal of Nuclear Medicine by Medknow is only possible because all the production costs are borne by the World Association of Radionuclide Molecular Therapy (WARMTH). This organization, however, has limited funds. This meant that if we stuck to the process of printing and sending paper journals, we would be limited in the number of journals we could

send and WARMTH could run out of money. Therefore, at the WARMTH annual general meeting held in Kochi in November 2016, two important changes were decided. First, that the paper would become available online only but would still generously be paid for WARMTH so that both submission and access remain free. The second is that with the savings made we could increase the number of issues from three a year to four a year. This is important as we were rejecting over 50% of all papers sent to us, but also the time from acceptance to publication for all but reviews was over 12 months. The additional issue which can also be a little larger should allow us over the next 18 months to reduce the time from acceptance to publication significantly, but also we can accept a few more papers which we believe will help us all to share and read about research from around the globe. The same high editorial standards will be present so that we can still enjoy the best of WJNM and can enjoy more papers and more current research.

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Reference

1. Witham MD, Runcie H. Turning predator into prey: The problem of predatory journal. J R Coll Physicians Edinb 2017;47:3-4.

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