



On integrity and transparency in scientific publication

One of the main purposes of research is the creation of strategies for dissemination and communication of results among the academic and scientific community. The role of scientific journals in this sense is to provide opportunities for the research community's reporting on various fields of knowledge. Specifically, *Revista Facultad de Odontología Universidad de Antioquia* is a biannual publication that includes original research articles in every issue, as well as other formats of interest such as topic reviews, clinical trials and clinical cases, among others.

In this context, a critical step in the dissemination of such results is article verification, so that submissions meet the minimum quality standards required for publication. This process includes steps like verifying compliance with authorship requirements, and reviewing scientific, ethical, and technical aspects in each section of a manuscript, including the review of sources of information in order to prevent plagiarism, confirm that the article has not been published in other journals, approval of a bioethics committee in the case of original articles, and compliance with international standards for writing research reports.

Scientific production has increased significantly in recent years, with researchers under greater pressure to have their articles accepted for publication in journals. This has had multiple effects on scientific practices, with a number of irregularities found in publications. In fact, there have been cases in which respondents have seen misconducts in their fellow researchers, or have admitted themselves to bad scientific practices such as plagiarism, authorship disputes, and data forgery.¹⁻³ Such practices have resulted in the retraction of articles, with an impact on authors' credibility.

An exploratory research project carried out by researchers in Brazil⁴ through a systematic search on PubMed in indexed dental journals in Scimago found out that 23.9% of 167 analyzed journals had at least one retracted article. The reported reasons for retraction include duplicate publishing, plagiarism, and scientific misconduct, to name just a few errors.

This leads us to consider the establishment of educational strategies for researchers on the main ethical aspects in scientific research and dissemination, seeking the reduction of misconducts and avoiding the risks of article retraction. Similarly, editorial committees should be particularly careful in reviewing compliance with ethical requirements for scientific publication. This is in line with the international and national regulations for each country, as well as with those set by the Council of Science Editors (available at: <http://www.councilscienceeditors.org>)

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