

Grants Programme on Increasing Awareness of Predatory Academic Practices

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The InterAcademy Partnership (IAP) – a global umbrella organisation of science, medicine and engineering academies – is presently conducting a unique study on predatory academic journals and conferences, which will report in early 2022. A vital part of this study is raising awareness of these pervasive and damaging practices amongst the global research community and helping researchers in any country, at any career stage and in any discipline make informed decisions on where they publish and/or present their work. A modest grants programme will support this venture.

The **grants programme** will support outreach and dissemination efforts that are tailored to local/regional context and designed to raise awareness of predatory academic practices and how to spot them (See additional guidance in Annex 1). Study outputs – including the results of a global survey of researchers – can provide materials to support these efforts. Innovative ways of working that engage a diverse community of academicians and researchers will be especially welcome, and IAP regional networks, senior and young academies, academicians and GYA members are equally eligible to apply. Any one regional network, academy or academician can only feature in one proposal.

Small grants of up to US\$10,000 are available for the most competitive and innovative proposals who submit their application using this online form <https://bit.ly/predpractices-application> by **29 October 2021**. If a larger amount is necessary to implement the initiative, please reach out to the IAP Secretariat to discuss your proposal further. Successful proposals will be announced by end of November and initiatives must be completed within four months from then, i.e. by end March 2022 latest. A short written report will also be required (a reporting framework will be provided).

TIMELINE

29 October 2021	Deadline for receipt of proposals to IAP Secretariat
29 October – end of November 2021	Review of applications by Project Working Group
Early December 2021	Successful proposals awarded grants
31 March 2022	Initiatives completed and reports submitted to IAP Secretariat (A reporting framework will be provided)

APPLICATION REVIEW CRITERIA

The criteria against which proposals will be reviewed are as follows:

1. **Scope** – To support senior and young academies, academicians, GYA members and/or IAP's Regional Networks, to raise awareness of predatory academic practices in their local, national or regional context and drawing, in part, on materials provided by the IAP study. Those applications that seek to engage other actors, e.g. research funders/ministries, libraries services, local publishers, will be reviewed favorably.

2. **Results** – A clearly defined (set of) output(s) and outcome(s) from the initiative is important, with a well-articulated evaluation/impact assessment framework. Applicants are encouraged to be experimental and seek new and innovative ways of raising awareness of predatory academic practices in intelligible, accessible and inclusive ways.
3. **Structure and value for money** – A well-articulated initiative plan and budget. Please be clear about milestones and deliverables throughout (ideally one for each month of implementation of the grant).

DURATION

Initiatives should run for a maximum period of four months and will not be extendable. Short reports (templates will be provided) should be submitted by end March 2022.

PROCESS

The IAP Secretariat will approve various proposals where they have successfully met the criteria, with the oversight of the IAP Co-Chairs. The IAP Secretariat will also approve budgetary allocation and pay 80% of the budget in January 2021; the remaining 20% on completion of the initiative and submission of a short report.

APPLICATION

Applications can be formally submitted using the following online form:

<https://bit.ly/predpractices-application>

If you have any questions or problems with accessing the form, please reach out to the IAP Secretariat at secretariat@iapartnership.org

ANNEX 1

What are predatory academic practices?

Predatory academic practices within IAP's study encompass predatory journals and conferences. The study highlights that predatory academic practices are difficult to define and the telling signs of these practices exist within a spectrum ranging from fraudulent to low quality.

Predatory practices exploit the need for researchers to publish or increase exposure of their work, particularly those who may be early in their career. Traits for predatory journals could include a lack of quality peer review processes, imposing reputable journals based on title, and constant spamming of invitations to submit an article, potentially outside of the expertise of that individual. Predatory conferences may also behave in similar ways; however, with the rise of virtual platforms, these conferences can be hard to identify. Some traits that are distinctive to conferences may include high fees, promise of a conference but cancelling prior to, and encouragement to speak at an event that is outside of your expertise.

These practices can potentially affect important areas of both academia and society by infiltrating the evidence used in public policy, threatening researchers' reputations and career paths, and leading to billions of wasted dollars in research.

Guidance on outreach and dissemination activities

IAP's two-year study on *Combatting Predatory Journals and Conferences* investigates topics under the following main themes:

- Definitions of predatory journals and conferences and their ambiguous, insufficiently nuanced and not universally applicable or agreed upon nature
- Extent and impact of these practices and the respective vulnerabilities and awareness of researchers in different geographies, disciplines, and career stages

- Root causes and drivers of these practices to design and target interventions appropriately
- Recommendations and conclusions to combat these practices across key stakeholder groups including but not limited to: researchers, funders, publishers, libraries and indexing services, and international governmental agencies

Outreach and dissemination activities might expand on the above topics or raise awareness of predatory practices in other innovative, creative ways. We ***strongly encourage*** applicants to propose potentially new ideas that are most relevant within your local and regional context for awareness raising and that engage key actors within that context. Some examples of activities are included below:

- Workshop or series of workshops
- Training program/curriculum for a training program
- Translating materials into local/regional languages for accessibility and inclusivity
- Online content development for website
- Or more innovative, less traditional, and/or creative ideas!