

conferences that require payment to be included as a speaker on a free topic without proper editorial control over presentations. Predatory publishing in palliative care is a real concern and should be further studied.

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Authors' Response



We would like to thank Dr. Sanz and Dr. del Valle for their comment on our letter *Predatory Open-Access Publishing in Palliative and Supporting Care* published in the *Journal*.¹ They give us the opportunity to apologize for not being able to consider their valuable and informative work on this topic published in *Medicina Paliativa*, which seems to be not indexed in PubMed.² In their work, they classified 16 of the 32 retrieved palliative care journals as “suspected” predatory journals. Although we agree about the fact that Beall list has been heavily criticized for subjectivity, it may be argued that the classification as “predatory journals” should be always considered as potential and should be always double-checked with recognized criteria of legitimacy.³ In the

discussion section of our letter we specified that “... The presence of a journal or publisher in this list should not be consider as a certain proof of predatory activity” Moreover, the original and updated version of Beall list was described as “a list of potential predatory publishers and journals.”¹ Hence, the adjective “suspected” seems to be an only an addendum, not changing the real meaning of the selection using the original criteria of the list.⁴ Clinicians and researchers should always use all available information and tools to evaluate by their own the legitimacy of a journal or publisher.⁵

Finally, it is a pleasure to know that the topic of predatory publishing has been discussed even in national palliative care congresses and we all hope that the interest will grow to limit the spread of this phenomenon.

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