



LEEDS
BECKETT
UNIVERSITY

Citation:

Flint, SW (2017) Young researchers and students receive spam a lot too. *BMJ*, 356. j773. ISSN 1756-1833 DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.j773>

Link to Leeds Beckett Repository record:

<https://eprints.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/id/eprint/3968/>

Document Version:

Article (Published Version)

Creative Commons: Attribution 4.0

The aim of the Leeds Beckett Repository is to provide open access to our research, as required by funder policies and permitted by publishers and copyright law.

The Leeds Beckett repository holds a wide range of publications, each of which has been checked for copyright and the relevant embargo period has been applied by the Research Services team.

We operate on a standard take-down policy. If you are the author or publisher of an output and you would like it removed from the repository, please [contact us](#) and we will investigate on a case-by-case basis.

Each thesis in the repository has been cleared where necessary by the author for third party copyright. If you would like a thesis to be removed from the repository or believe there is an issue with copyright, please contact us on openaccess@leedsbeckett.ac.uk and we will investigate on a case-by-case basis.



LETTERS

WE READ SPAM A LOT

Young researchers and students receive spam a lot too

Stuart W Flint *senior research fellow*

Fairfax Hall 230, School of Sport, Leeds Beckett University, Headingley Campus, Leeds LS6 3QS, UK

Grey and colleagues identify the frequency and breadth of academic spam received by mid-career academics.¹ These emails aim to deliberately mislead academics and to earn money through unethical practice.

The concern goes beyond mid-career academics: many researchers early in their career and even postgraduate students receive such spam. In recent years, colleagues and students have told me that they have received academic spam and were unaware that it was from a fake journal. One young researcher told me that, after invitation, they were going to submit an article to a journal. I searched for the journal and told them that the outlet was a scheme for making money. They were shocked: “Wow—thanks for reading the small print! What a cheek to ask for money.” This is only one of many unfortunate examples of academics being duped into submitting to fake, predatory journals that hide publishing costs until an article is submitted or even accepted.

The rise in journals targeting academics is concerning, particularly given the pressures of publishing among early career academics and sometimes students. These predatory journals that offer quick turnaround of articles are often not indexed, have questionable review processes, have fake websites and publishers, and hide the cost of publishing. Receiving invitations from these outlets has become a daily occurrence. Universities should highlight the dangers of predatory journals to ensure that researchers use outlets that are reputable and ethical.

Competing interests: None declared.

1 Grey A, Bolland MJ, Dalbeth N, Gamble G, Sadler L. We read spam a lot: prospective cohort study of unsolicited and unwanted academic invitations. *BMJ* 2016;356:i5383. doi: 10.1136/bmj.i5383 pmid:27974354.

Published by the BMJ Publishing Group Limited. For permission to use (where not already granted under a licence) please go to <http://group.bmj.com/group/rights-licensing/permissions>