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Editor-in-Chief

Shortly after writing my editorial for the previous issue, I was contacted by reporters for CTV News and the *Toronto Star*, who were collaborating on a report about “predatory publishers”. A predatory publisher is one that prints or distributes fake or unvetted studies, often for a significant fee, and takes advantage of inexperienced scholars and scientists who are desperately looking to publish their work. They asked my opinion and how this journal was dealing with its predatory publisher.

Some readers may recall that the story broke in late September, broadcast on CTV News and followed by a more detailed story in the *Toronto Star*.¹ This publication was mentioned because our former publisher was one of the two Canadian publishing houses purchased by OMICS Group of Hyderabad, India. In all, 16 Canadian health sciences publications were affected by the OMICS purchase. A follow-up story appeared in *The National Post* in late November and confirmed the worst fears about how a predatory publisher puts fake research online, complete with typographical errors and nonsensical text.²

Fortunately, when the warning signs of the new ownership’s changes at our former publisher appeared, the CAO management was able to terminate our publishing contract and engage another independent, reputable publisher. After a few weeks of reorganizing our publication and reviewing procedures, we are back on track. Manuscripts that were in the review process when our former publisher’s managing editor suddenly vanished in late summer have been recovered and sent out for review. Our publication schedule for 2017 is set, and articles that had been accepted for publication, but not yet scheduled have also been recovered and put in the schedule.

I look forward to our upcoming CAO Congress in Ottawa that coincides with the celebration of Canada150 and another exciting year for *CJO*RCO* and our profession. ●

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1. Oved MC, Favaro A, St. Philip E. Canadian medical journals hijacked for junk science. <https://www.thestar.com/news/world/2016/09/29/canadian-medical-journals-hijacked-for-junk-science.html#pt0-827114>. Accessed 30 November 2016.
 2. Spears T. New owner of two Canadian medical journals is publishing fake research for cash, and pretending it’s genuine. <http://news.nationalpost.com/news/canada/new-owner-of-two-canadian-medical-journals-is-publishing-fake-research-for-cash-and-pretending-its-genuine>. Accessed 30 November 2016.