



# Addressing the Issue of Academic Bullying and Unethical Authors in Scholarly Publishing

Rujittika Mungmunpantipantip<sup>1</sup>, Viroj Wiwanitkit<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Private Academic Consultant, Bangkok, Thailand.

<sup>2</sup>Dr DY Patil Vidhyapeeth, Pune, India.

## Abstract

Academic bullying has become an emerging problem in scholarly publishing, particularly when unethical authors resort to using their own blog posts or publications in low-standard journals to attack those who criticize their work or expose their conflicts of interest. This article examines the tactics used by these authors and provides strategies for addressing this issue within the academic community.

**Keywords:** academic bullying, unethical authors, conflicts of interest, scholarly publishing, criticism

## Introduction

Academic bullying is a growing concern within the scholarly community, as some authors resort to unethical tactics to silence criticism and protect their reputations. One troubling trend is the use of blog posts or publications in low-standard journals to attack those who challenge their research or expose their conflicts of interest. These tactics not only undermine the integrity of academic discourse but also create a chilling effect on open and honest debate.

## Tactics Used by Unethical Authors

Unethical authors may respond to criticism by launching personal attacks, spreading false information, or attempting to discredit their critics in the eyes of the academic community. They may also use their influence to prevent their critics from publishing in reputable journals or obtaining research grants. In some cases, authors may even refuse to reply to letters to the editor in a standard way and instead resort to publishing their responses in venues that are not subject to peer review or editorial standards. The background personal conflict such as angry to one who point out the weak point of his/her published work or point out the unethical practice, no qualification or hidden financial of interest of him/her. At present, there are several emerging cases of this problem (examples of cases with possible problems are "Lataster R" who has hidden conflict of interest and commented by a letter to editor and try to use blogpost to bully and tie

with a low standard journal for unfair retraction of the commentary on his problem [1] or “Del Brutto OH” who use a possible low and unethical standard journal, that permit an unethical academic bullying, to publish a bullying on a scholar who point out weak point of his researchers (see his publication at “Revista Ecuatoriana de Neurología”). We can see the common nature that the one who perform bullying might have hidden agenda and not dare to reply to a standard commentary.

## **Addressing the Issue**

To address academic bullying and unethical behavior, it is crucial for the academic community to uphold high standards of integrity and transparency. Journal editors and reviewers should be vigilant in identifying conflicts of interest and ensuring that all submissions meet rigorous academic standards. Authors who engage in unethical behavior should be held accountable and may face sanctions, such as retractions or bans from publishing in reputable journals.

## **Conclusion**

Academic bullying and unethical behavior among authors pose a threat to the integrity of scholarly publishing. By recognizing the tactics used by unethical authors and taking steps to address the issue, the academic community can promote a culture of open and respectful debate. Ultimately, safeguarding the principles of academic integrity is essential for advancing knowledge and fostering a healthy academic environment.

## **References**

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