

Wednesday late afternoon session Track B, Wednesday, Sep 24 2025, 14:00-15:30

Location: Seminar 1

Session: Health Care

Chair: Ana Marušić

OR-61

Enhancing Research Integrity in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: Lessons from Global Initiatives in Oncology

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Objective: Research integrity is a critical field for academia and scientific community. It is particularly relevant in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) where limited resources and educational opportunities can make researchers vulnerable to various ethical challenges such as predatory publishing, plagiarism, data manipulation, and so on. The aim of this oral abstract is to review our published global efforts to tackle these issues through research and training with a focus on oncology as an illustrative field.

Method: Four cross-sectional survey-based studies including educational interventions were conducted globally to investigate predatory publishing, and other issues of research integrity. Factors associated with each research concern were studied using univariable and multivariable statistics. Outcomes after delivering distance-education based interventions were also described.

Results: Our results revealed that many researchers, particularly in LMICs, are trapped by predatory journals due to pressures to publish quickly. Use of digital education based on distance-based interventions in different languages showed a notable improvement of researchers' knowledge on predatory publishing. Distance education, coupled with mentorship and social networks, emerged as a promising approach to enhance awareness on the issue. Another comprehensive training program on research integrity we established under the leadership of the African Organization for Research and Training in Cancer (AORTIC) encompassing various advanced courses, including those addressing predatory publishing, data manipulation, plagiarism, and gender inequity issues also provided practical guidance for oncologists in under-resourced settings and emphasized the importance of research integrity in oncology to limit the damages of flawed research on patients with cancer.

Conclusion: The critical need to enhance research integrity, especially in LMICs, where the risks of research misconduct are high, and resources are limited may be achieved by global low-cost training initiatives. The commitment of organizations like AORTIC sets an example for other societies in LMICs to actively engage in reducing disparities in training on sensitive research issues through education and training, ultimately contributing to equitable cancer research and mitigating ethical challenges in the field.