



# **Confronting Predatory Publishers and Conference Organizers: A Firsthand Account**

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# Origin of the problem



- **Open access movement**
- **Shift from a pay-to-read to a pay-to-publish business model**
- **Important to remember that NOT all open access publishers are predatory**

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- A graphic in the top right corner of the slide showing several interlocking puzzle pieces in a light blue color, set against a darker blue background.
- **Problem is not limited to open access publications**
  - **Predatory entrepreneurs have entered the conference space**
  - **All use deception to entice participation**
  - **Similar warning signs; learning to recognize them is important**



Primary goal is PROFIT,  
not the advancement of science.

# Task at Hand



- **Increase awareness**
- **Provide a first-hand account of participation in a [potential/possible/probable] predatory conference**
- **Discuss implications for scientific integrity**





**Are researchers at risk?**

# Common assumptions

- **Predatory publishers and conferences are not common and are not of concern**
- **Scholars are unlikely to be deceived by the overtures of predatory entrepreneurs**
- **Risk is greater in developing countries due to a lack of publication literacy**

# Beall's List of Predatory Open Access Publishers

Publishers	
Year	Number of publishers
2011	18
2012	23
2013	225
2014	477
2015	693
2016	923

- Potential
- Possible
- Probable

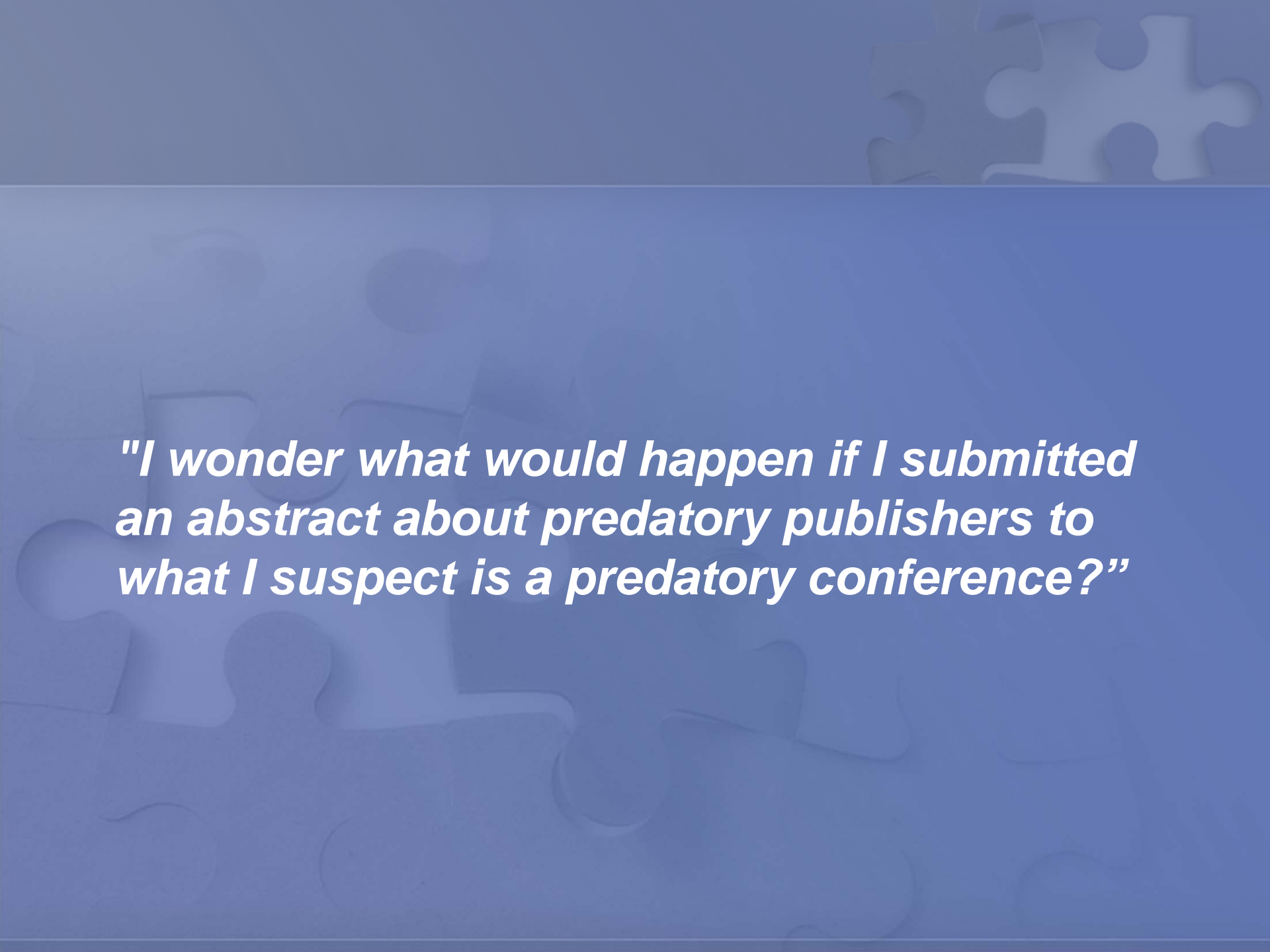
# Predatory publishers ...

- Rarely uphold accepted archival policies and procedures
- And, perhaps even more importantly, fail to perform valid peer-review





**As a result, virtually ANYTHING  
can be published for a PRICE,  
REGARDLESS of quality.**

The background is a solid blue color. In the top right corner, there is a faint, light blue gear icon. Scattered across the lower half of the image are several faint, light blue puzzle pieces of various shapes and sizes, some overlapping each other.

***"I wonder what would happen if I submitted an abstract about predatory publishers to what I suspect is a predatory conference?"***



**Be diligent – predatory publishers and conference can be difficult to identify.**

## IN FAIRNESS

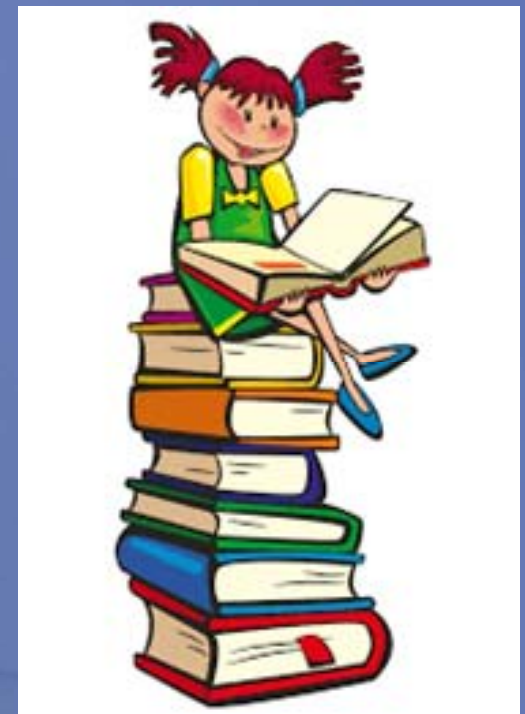
- Impressive website
- Pictures and proceedings from previous conferences
- Abstracts available online
- ISBN assigned to abstracts
- Conference hosts attentive to inquiries
- Desirable destination; adequate venue





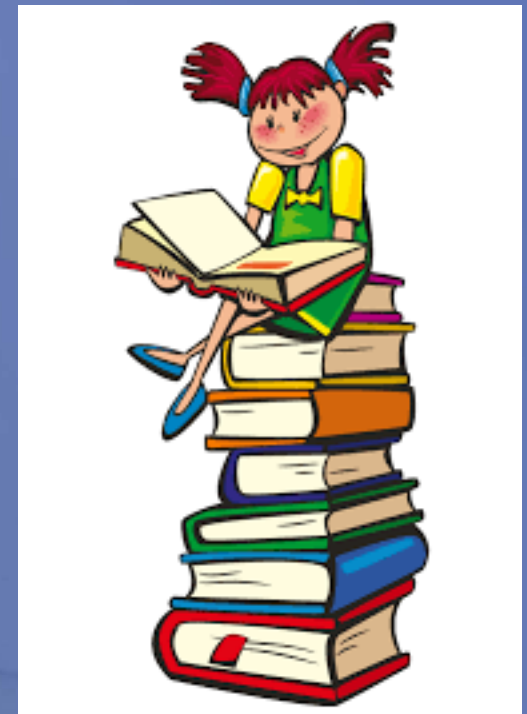
## BEWARE OF

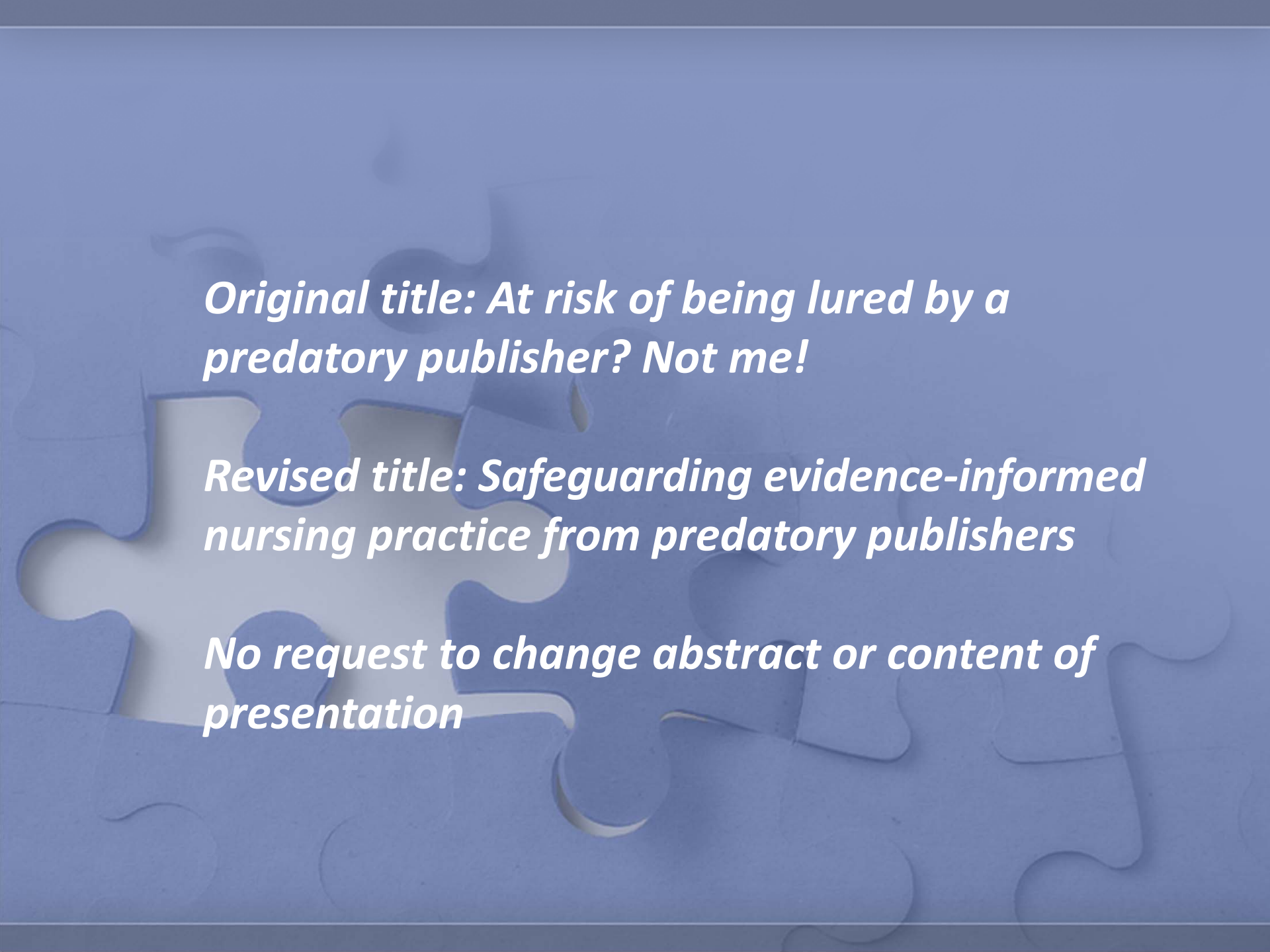
- Ambiguous focus
- Vague acceptance criteria
- Lack of contact information
- Unknown editor/editorial board
- Requirement to transfer copyright upon submission
- Similarity of identity to that of a legitimate journal or conference



# TRICKS OF THE TRADE

- Promise of rapid review and publication
- Flattery
- Deception
- Hidden fees and obligations
- Hijacking reputations



The background of the slide is a solid blue color with a pattern of interlocking puzzle pieces. The puzzle pieces are slightly raised, creating a 3D effect with shadows. The text is overlaid on this background.

*Original title: At risk of being lured by a predatory publisher? Not me!*

*Revised title: Safeguarding evidence-informed nursing practice from predatory publishers*

*No request to change abstract or content of presentation*

# So, why do scholars publish in predatory journals?



**Naivety**



**Fear of failure or a hostile review**



**Desire to get published quickly**



**Academic performance expectations**



**Ill conceived decisions about quantity and quality of publications**





**Does it matter?**

# To advance science ...

**... scholars' work must be**

- **discoverable,**
- **citable,**
- **archived for future use, and**
- **must build on ethical, replicable, peer-reviewed work (Pierson, 2014).**

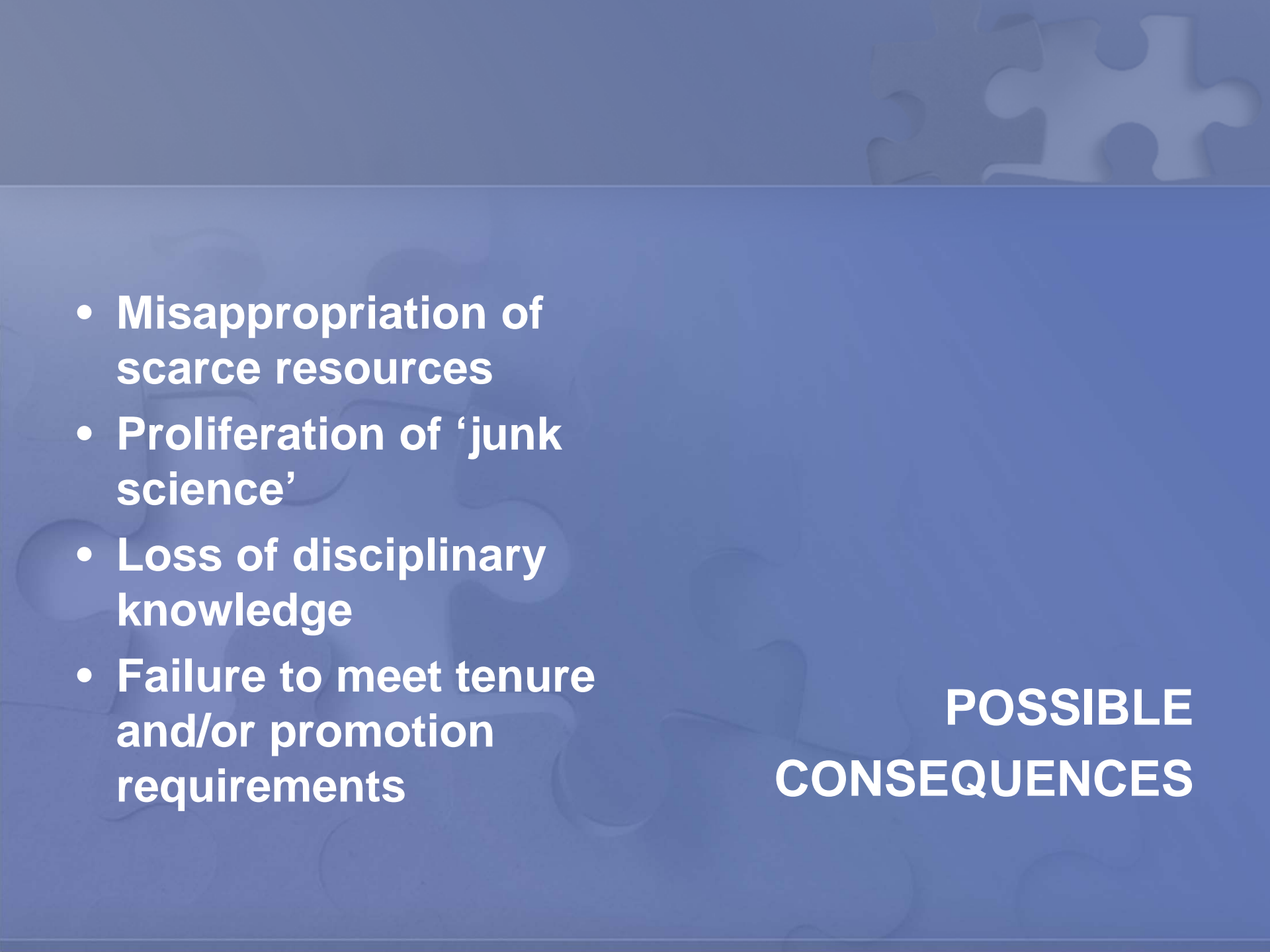
# Scholarly Publishing

- Credits authors' ideas
- Verifies publication date
- Establishes validity of claims
- Creates awareness of claims
- Preserves the record
- Rewards scholars based on metrics



**Predatory publishers are often transitory,  
resulting in a failure to achieve these goals.**



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- The background is a solid blue color. In the top right corner, there is a faint, light blue puzzle piece. In the bottom right corner, there is a faint, light blue gear. The text is white and bold.
- **Misappropriation of scarce resources**
  - **Proliferation of ‘junk science’**
  - **Loss of disciplinary knowledge**
  - **Failure to meet tenure and/or promotion requirements**

**POSSIBLE  
CONSEQUENCES**

## **PROTECT YOURSELF**

- **Ignore e-mail solicitations**
- **Be vigilant in 'loaning' your name/reputation**
- **Learn to navigate 'white lists'**
- **Check websites carefully**
- **Verify index claims**
- **Read the fine print**

# PROTECT YOUR WORK

- Choose publication venues carefully
- Seek the right to publish the full text in a repository
- Archive your work so others can retrieve it
- If you are not sure how to do so, seek help!

## **PROTECT OTHERS**

- **Foster scholarly publication literacy and integrity**
- **Address performance expectations and standards**
- **Discuss concerns regarding quantity and quality openly**
- **Set an example**
- **Be vigilant in evaluating evidence**



**Diligence is needed to guard against the lures of predatory entrepreneurs.**

**To do so requires sound scholarly publication literacy and integrity.**

**Careful evaluation is also needed of the *sources* of evidence that inform research and practice.**



# Rethinking assumptions ...



**Predatory publishers and conferences are of concern**



**Scholars are being deceived by predatory entrepreneurs**



**Risks extend beyond developing countries and can be reduced via enhanced publication literacy**



Questions?

# References

Beall, J. (2015). Predatory journals and the breakdown of research cultures. *Information Development*, 31(5), 473-476.

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