

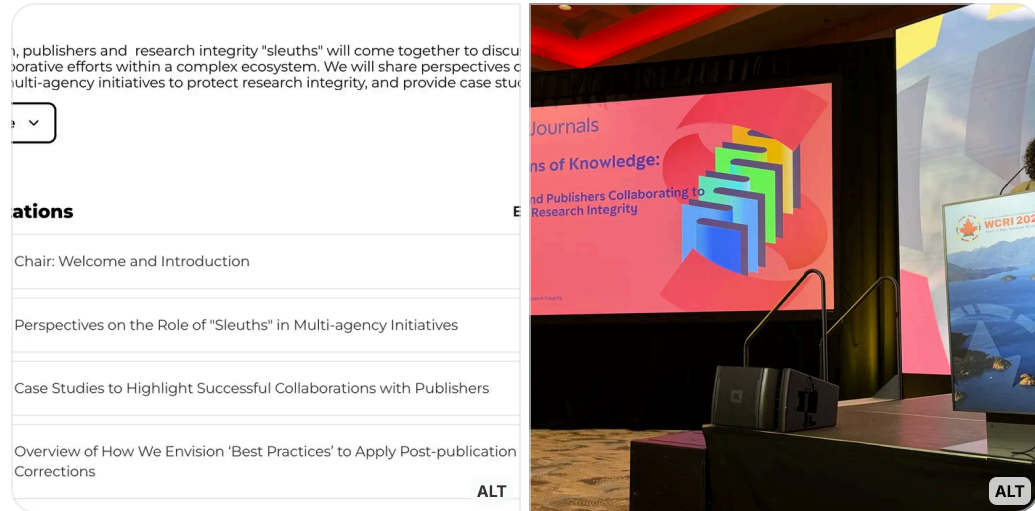


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Next: Symposium: Wardens of Knowledge: Sleuths and Publishers Collaborating to Preserve Research Integrity

Chair: Adya Misra, Sage Publishing: Research sleuths are often left out of the conversation. How could we work better together?

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Next: René Aquarius with "Case Studies to Highlight Successful Collaborations with Publishers"

What others think I do, vs what I think I do? Hopefully contribute to the scientific community - or sheer panic about bad studies. Finding lots of duplicated/overlapping images!

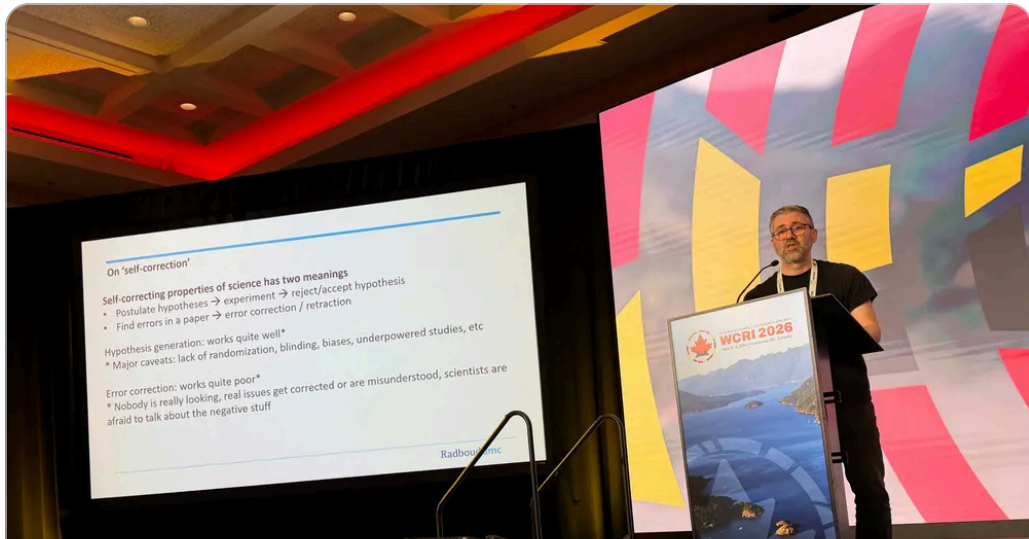
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Feedba



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RA: Things I have heard from colleagues:
 This is not your job.
 We are not the research police
 This is a fringe topic
 What is in it for you?
 Nobody reads these papers anyway.

==> Should we report or not report?

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Feedback

RA: There are many problematic papers, and correction mechanism are too slow. Shoutout to the Richardson 2025 PNAS paper:

www.pnas.org/doi/10.1073/...

Malicious actors, science deniers, and politicians can use the reports on science misconduct for their own agenda.

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PNAS

Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), a peer reviewed journal of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) - an authoritative source of high-impact, original research that broadly spans...

www.pnas.org



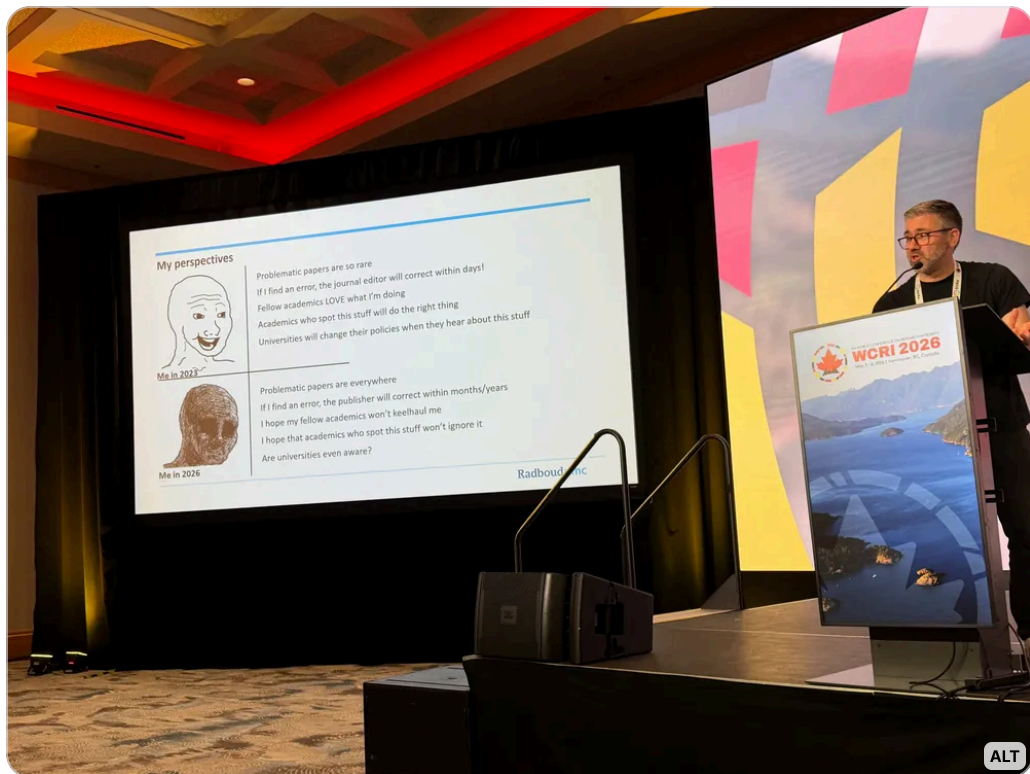
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RA: Publishers-developed and commercial RI tools are now available, but they cost money, and their performance is not really known.

Paper mills can use these tools to avoid detection!

My perspectives have changed - I am more pessimistic now than a couple of years ago.

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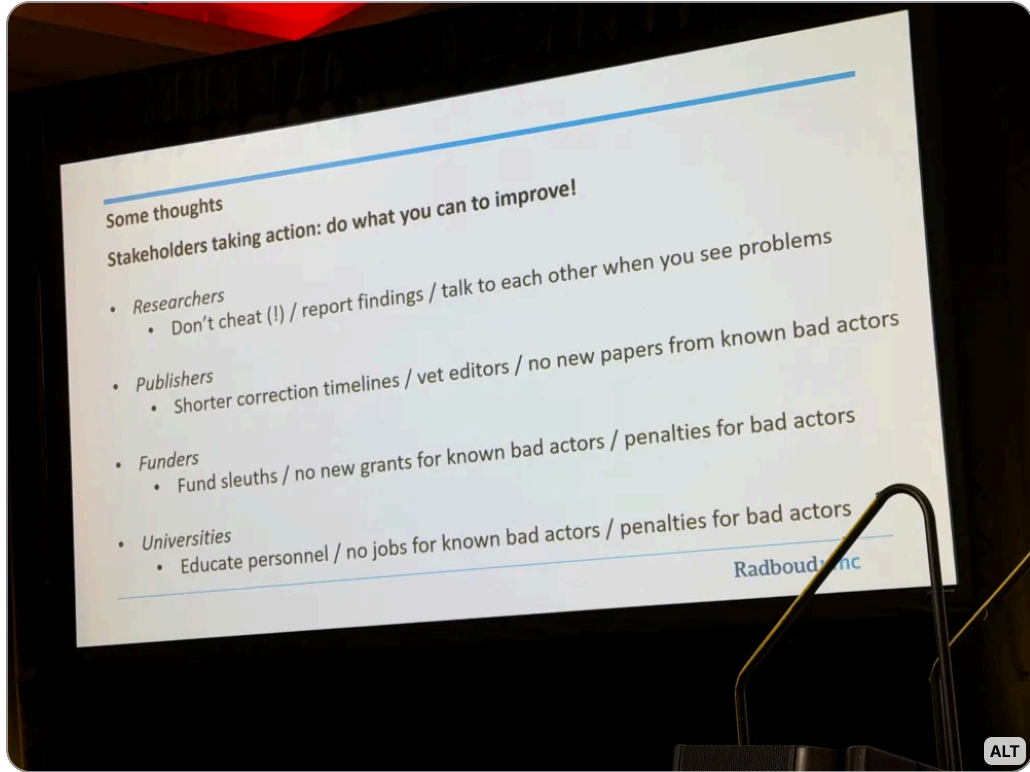
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RA: All stakeholders (drink!) can do better. Take action, do what you can to improve.

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Next: Laura Wilson, Head of Research Integrity & Ethics, Taylor & Francis, with "Overview of How We Envision 'Best Practices' to Apply Post-publication Corrections"

- who also has a slide "what others think I do".

We can not fire researchers! Only investigate or correct/retract.

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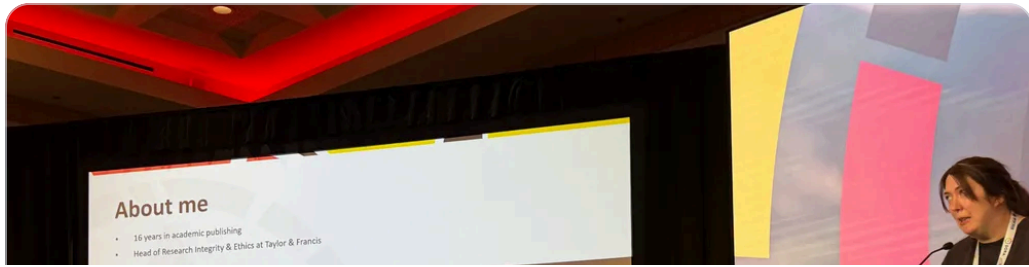
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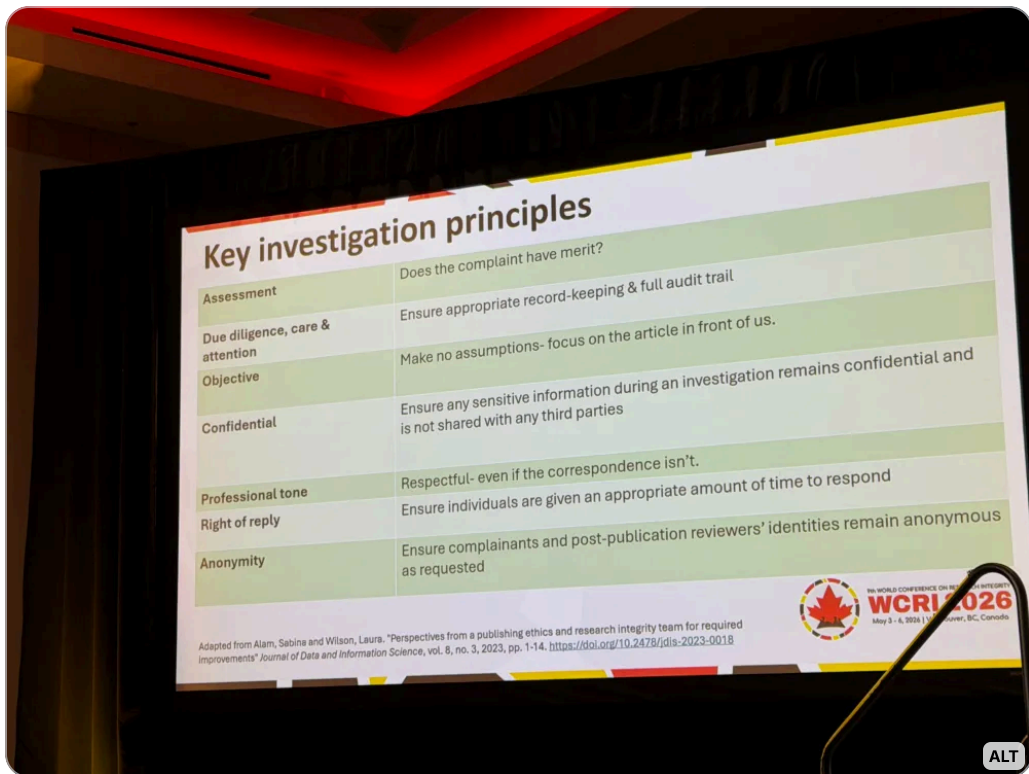
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LW: Key investigation principles

Assessment, due diligence, care and attention, objective, confidential, professional tone, right to reply, anonymity

It should be simple, right? But there are complexities. AI-generated complaints, ideological complaints, vendettas.

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LW: Some authors accuse us of being nobodies, or working at the secret service - as if working at a publishing company is glamorous! Some editors might panic and do an "Ostrich", not understand, are too busy, conflicts of interest.

And we are ignored by authors, institutions....

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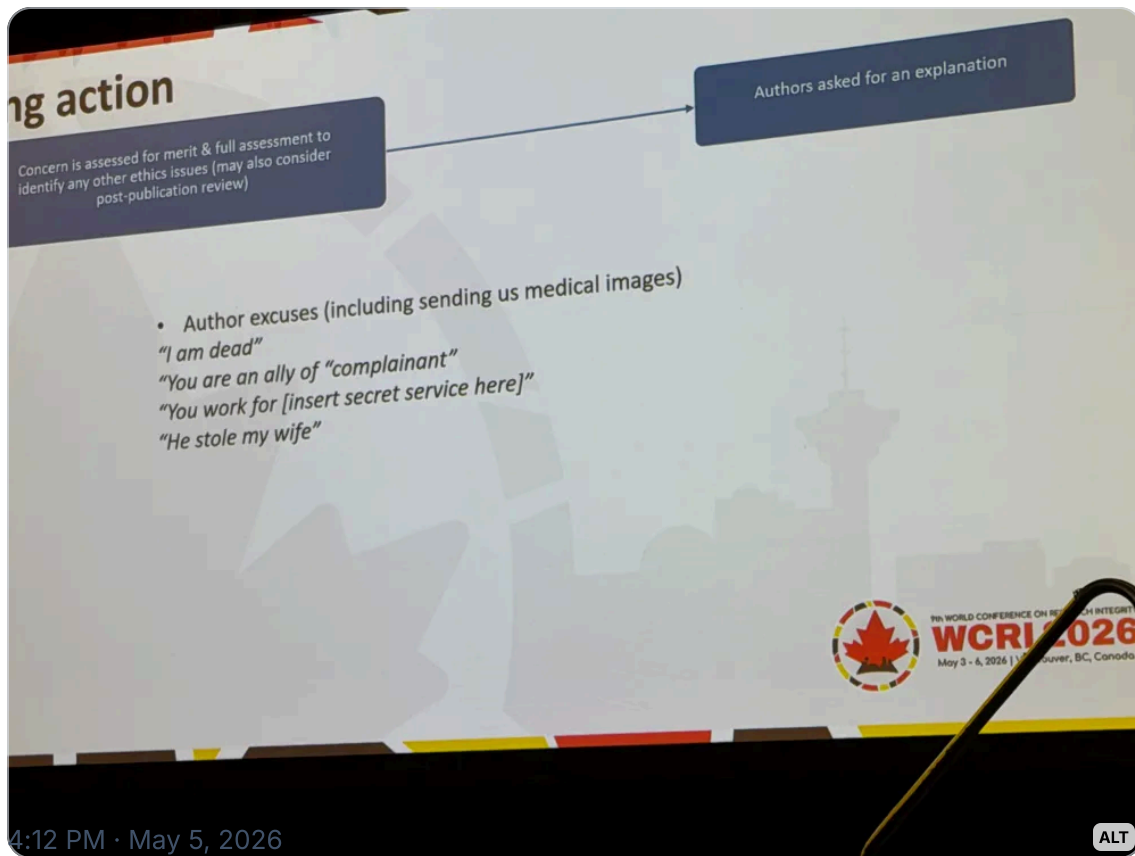
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2 likes



Write your reply



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LW: What hasn't worked?

- * Waiting for author reply
- * Provocative/aggressive/vague emails
- * Repeated chases by complainants

What works:

- * Polite correspondence
- * Give timeframe before taking decision
- * Anticipating paper mills' next moves.

The "Under Investigation" banner works!

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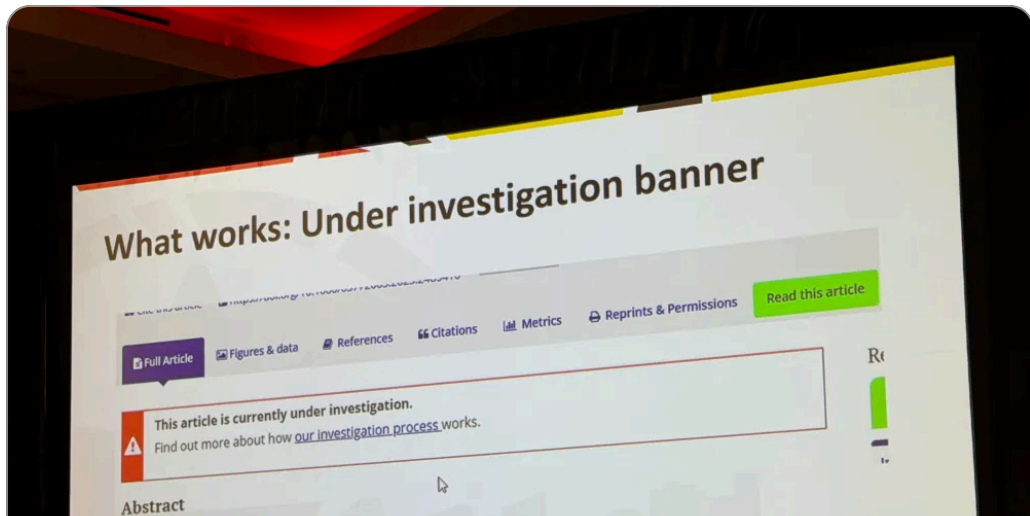
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LW: We are also de-powering the ringleaders, such as frequent paper mill submitters.

We will continue our respectful tone, collaboration between sleuths and publishers, would love tools (ideally not sold to paper mills) and continue our experimentation and efficiency.

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Adya Misra [@sagepub.com](#), filling in for one of the speakers who could not make it.

This conversation is critical today:

- * paper mills and gen AI are super-charging research misconduct
- * trust in science is becoming more fragile

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AM: Challenges:
Academic publishers differ in policies, access to resources, influence.
The scale of misconduct is rising.
Small steps and big leaps for the future.
Collective actions: if publishers work and contact institutions together -
actions might be slower but more consistent.
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AM:
* We need to engage with research outputs from the sleuth community
* Consider 'informed consent' when naming sleuths in notices
* Work as a collective, scale processes and workflows.
We need to fund initiatives that foster research culture that enables
robust/rigorous research
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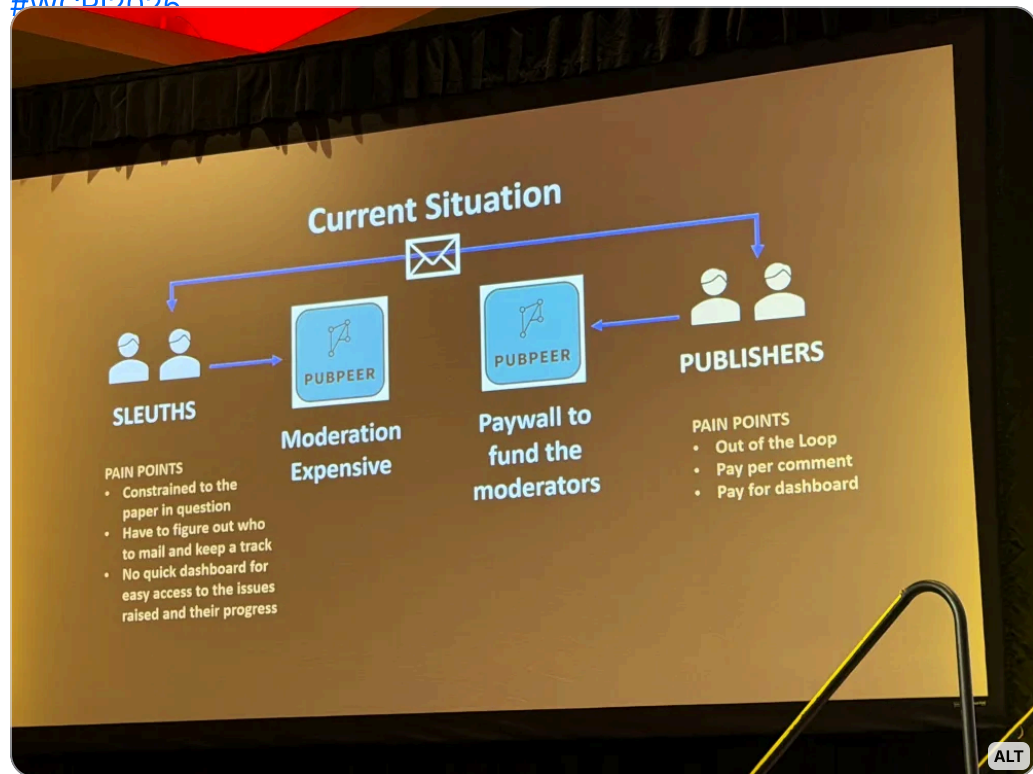
Online presentation by Achal Agrawal, Founder of India Research Watch
Several pain points with sleuths commenting on PubPeer.
Idea: develop a private Sleuth Box, for sleuths, by invitation only.



Feedback

Ticketing system, encrypted, more variety of comments, cheap to develop and maintain.

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AA: The disadvantage is that such comments are not public, so this Sleuth Box would not replace PubPeer, it is not an alternative. Would you find such a SleuthBox useful?

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Discussion/Q&A:

* Why are retractions so slow? Should we have independent consultants looking at allegations?

* decouple needing to wait for institutional review before retraction can happen - will speed things up, but COPE requires it? Does not work with questions about IRB approval.

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1 6



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"Stakeholder" tally update. How many times was this word mentioned (orally or on a slide)?

Sunday (opening welcome) 4x

Monday (full day) 4x (bit disappointing)

Tuesday (full day): 12 so far! Best day so far!



Feedba

Drink!

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