Discussing Open Access with David Aucoin

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Terry Henner: [00:00:01.35] Ok good. So open access is kind of a growing trend in publishing and there's a lot of emphasis on trying to find out how faculty or researchers feel about it and what their perceptions are and I know you've published in some open access journals. So I just had a couple of questions for you to help inform us and the rest of the community. So let me start with a general question. What have been your general impressions when publishing in open access journals? And have you seen specific drawbacks or benefits to publishing in them?
Yeah in general I think it's, I think it's a great system. And as far as drawbacks the only drawbacks I initially encountered was I think getting some of my previously published works available in open access so it seems like I had to. You probably know more about this than I do, but I had to kind of like register my previous publications with I can't remember.
Terry Henner: [00:01:17.16] in PubMed Central?
Doctor David Aucoin: [00:01:19.38] in PubMed Central and make sure that it was all over. So that was a little challenging because that was a requirement. If I was submitting a grant and I needed all those publications kind of I guess good to go. And so, but initially that was the only challenge. But you know there hasn't been many differences between publishing, I think you know as far as like you know the system for how easy it is to to you know to move a manuscript through a through a journal. I don't see much of a big difference, but I think the payoffs are big. You know in open access.
Terry Henner: [00:01:59.16] Ok. One question about open access versus traditional journalism. They have author processing fees. Have you found that the author fees are a concerned compared to traditional journals?
Doctor David Aucoin: [00:02:12.11] So as far as just how much you pay to publish the, I, you know, I don't think there's a big difference to me. I haven't noticed a big difference between an open access journal and a traditional non open access journals. So, and in fact you know we focus you know some of our work goes into PLOS (Public Library of Science) and I think there I think they're pretty reasonably priced compared to other you know from what I recall in the past so.
Terry Henner: [00:02:41.15] Okay great. So there are thousands of journals you could choose from. What factors like journal prestige or impact factor or turnaround time or whatever. What most influence you in deciding where to submit a manuscript?
Doctor David Aucoin: [00:02:57.89] And so usually I mean the first thing we do is we look at you know what are we publishing is it more basic science or is it more clinically oriented oriented. And then and then so we'll all kind of go through a list of of microbiology and immunology journals to figure out OK we have some clinical data in this you know and in this manuscript well let's send it to this specific journal that focuses on maybe some clinical results and things like that. And then and then after that yeah it's probably impact factor. You know I, I you know off the top of my head, I know you know the the the journals that I would prefer to publish in, but if you know if I don't think it's super high impact or something like that then then we'll just kind of go down the list and find something that seems appropriate as far as impact factor and then and then go from there.
Terry Henner: [00:03:59.44] Ok. One of the selling points of open access journals is that it can reach potentially a wider audience that can potentially be more heavily cited. What characteristics of open access journals might influence your decision to publish in them?
Doctor David Aucoin: [00:04:20.19] What characteristics? Well I think I think in general I just like you said I like the fact that the articles are going out. They can be distributed you know without having to pay for the the people who are you know reading the journals and maybe doing a report on it or giving a teaching presentation they're able to access it without without have to, having to pay any any any money for that as long as they reference it. I think that's super important and I think it, it helps with education, it helps move moves the science forward and it gives everybody the opportunity to learn. I think so. I think that's the best thing about it. And so I don't know if they're you know if we're looking at all open access journals if there are kind of big differences between the open access journals I probably couldn't comment too much on that, but I don't know if there are big differences there you know.
Terry Henner: [00:05:22.34] Ok. I'm just curious. Some traditional journals offer like a hybrid option where you know they save for a few dollars more you can make your article available you know freely.
Doctor David Aucoin: [00:05:37.3] Right.
Terry Henner: [00:05:37.81] Have you ever done that or what?
Doctor David Aucoin: [00:05:39.3] No, I've run I have run across that and I think we have paid that fee before just because we would rather have it you know open access, but I think it's been a while since that question's been asked.
Terry Henner: [00:05:53.05] Ok. You know I was just curious that happens to me a lot.
Doctor David Aucoin: [00:05:56.35] Yeah. That's a good question. Yeah.
Terry Henner: [00:05:56.56] You know you publish and you get follow-up emails. Saying pay the additional fee.
Doctor David Aucoin: [00:06:00.53] Right. And then with PLOS I know I don't think we've we've had that.
Terry Henner: [00:06:05.16] They won't cause it's it's the gold s... model standard.
Terry Henner: [00:06:10.3] Yeah okay. Okay good. So if you're like the rest of us you've been contacted by journals some you know asking you to submit and there is this whole realm of predatory journals or unscrupulous publishers. What's been your experience with that?
Doctor David Aucoin: [00:06:29.71] Well, I mean I think if you don't get any you know Professor, researcher or they'll they'll tell you that they probably get you know 10 e-mails a week from maybe journals that I've never even heard of and and wanting you to either submit an article or review a manuscript that was potentially submitted. So I think there is that I think there is that concern that you know who you know who is this group? Where are they based out of? Is it legitimate or are they just trying to make a buck? You know as far as publishing fees and things like that so I think they're there always is that that concern. So I think you know when when a Professor nowadays is considering being on a reviewing a paper or being on an editorial board. They're probably a lot more careful than they used to be in the past when there wasn't that many you know journals out there.
Terry Henner: [00:07:29.72] Right. It's hard to know sometimes.
Doctor David Aucoin: [00:07:31.52] It's really hard to know. Yeah.
Terry Henner: [00:07:32.29] If they are legitimate or not.
Doctor David Aucoin: [00:07:33.27] Yeah.
Terry Henner: [00:07:33.86] Okay great. And just one last question What would you say to colleagues considering submitting a manuscript to an open access journal?
Doctor David Aucoin: [00:07:43.96] I yeah I would say go for it. I think I think everybody can understand that it's going to move the science forward. And and you know help students help other researchers. And you know I think it's I think it's the future for sure.
Terry Henner: [00:08:03.1] OK that sounds great. Thanks a lot. That'll do.
Doctor David Aucoin: [00:08:09.19] Thanks Terry.