

The Story of Precision Nanomedicine – the Journal

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I am grateful to all editorial board members, who has had long discussions with me about what is right and how shall we do it. Special thanks are due to Beat Löffler and Mike Eaton for their valuable input.

Keywords

- Nanomedicine
- Scholarly publishing
- Core values
- Progressive and rational
- Focus on content
- Replication studies
- Negative results

Introduction

The story of the journal *Precision Nanomedicine* started back in December 2015 when the contract of the editor-in-chief of *Nanomedicine NBM* was not renewed by Elsevier without justification. While it was fully within the legal rights of the publisher to make that decision, they did fail to consult with their editorial board. Elsevier also rejected a collective letter signed by 74 board members and editors requesting the reversal of the decision and served up the usual excuses. This was not the first instance of a publisher acting without the input of an editorial board or completely disregarding its opinion [1] [2], [3], and the reaction was similar. In 2015, almost all associate editors and more than 60 editorial board members of the journal *Lingua* resigned in protest [3]. Similar to the mutiny by *Lingua's* editors, we set out to launch our own open-access journal³ to promote all progressive and rational aspects of nanomedicine including theory and practice while exercising good publishing practices (for a deeper analysis of the present state of scholarly publishing see the opinion paper in this issue).

The need

There is a growing need for responsible publishing and sharing reliable results. This means not just publishing for the sake of having one more publication, but sharing information which, in addition to basic science, educates about research and development (R&D) knowledge, and how to turn knowledge into practice. Forced to chase originality and novelty, many investigators now pursue only novel materials and complicated approaches to fulfill the criteria to make their manuscripts acceptable. *Originality and novelty are like designs and prototypes at a fashion show: they reveal a new concept but most of them could not be worn on the streets.* Without in-depth and reproducible studies and R&D knowledge, it is impossible to develop practical (nano)medicines for everyday use.

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³ It is impossible today to launch a new journal based on subscriptions.

While many societies hire for-profit publishers to run their media⁴, we have decided to create our own publishing company. In January 2018, and with the support of the European Foundation for Clinical Nanomedicine (CLINAM) and the International Society for Nanomedicine (Basel, Switzerland) we founded our own publishing organization in New England – in one of the traditional hubs for medicine and materials science.

Can We Make a Difference?

It seems that many publishers are running marketing campaigns via email asking scientists to join their editorial board or submit a manuscript for their upcoming issue, promising everything and immediately. We all receive these emails every day. There are so many of these messages that most of us have added these email addresses to their junk lists, or immediately delete such soliciting emails. We, scientists, must remain vigilant and recognize there are many predatory publishers out there. [4] [5].

So, how can we make a difference when there are approximately 34,000 science journals and more than 5000 publishers registered with Scopus today? How is it possible to make an impact if more than 30 new OA journals have sprung up only in nanomedicine in the past 3 years alone? The answer is by following our principles, fulfilling real needs, and building for long-term success. By doing these things we CAN make a difference.

Our Core Values

1. *We have our own nonprofit publisher* supported and supervised by nanomedicine societies, scientists, and professionals⁵.
2. We focus on *long-term success* and avoid deceptive practices.
3. *Affordability*: In 2018, submissions are fully offset by our supporters. In the distant future we will charge only the real costs of operating the system (typically \$350–500 for society journals) and even that will be offset by society support and waived for qualified individuals [6].
4. Our *renowned team of editors and editorial board members* guarantee quality. We all know each other, we've worked with each other, and wish to work towards the common good and reliable science.
5. *We are signatories of the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment* [7] and we advise against the use of journal-based metrics, such as Journal Impact Factors, as a surrogate measure of the quality of individual research articles, to assess an individual scientist's contributions, or in hiring, promotion, or funding decisions. *We support article-based metrics*.
6. We will put *real peer review into practice*. The purpose of the peer-review is to assess scientific merit and improve the manuscript. Even it takes some time, and peer review is not perfect (see Editorial in Issue 1), but is there anything better? How much time would you need to assess a paper? How many articles have you reviewed in the last year?
7. We will use up-to-date technology such as:
 - a. *Search engine optimization*. Our web page is optimized for computers, but the freely downloadable PDFs are optimized for human reading.
 - b. Using *Standard Scientific Style* (DS3) for accepted manuscripts allows AI to translate copyedited and proofread manuscripts instantly to SEO-optimized HTML files and PDFs for immediate posting.

⁴ As one of the major player states its mission statement: “Our expertise lies in seeking out and fully realizing potential revenue streams for our society partners. We aggressively develop commercial sales opportunities, ... including advertising, supplements, sponsorships, reprints, and translations.” (No mentioning of science or scientists.)

⁵ Disclosure: *Precision Nanomedicine* is published by Andover House Inc., a new not-for-profit online publisher founded by scientists and activists in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, USA. The publisher receives partial financial support from the European Foundation for Clinical Nanomedicine in a form of a donation and from its Editors and Editorial Board members who have dedicated their precious time and expertise as in-kind contribution. The publisher is also supported by Standard Analytical Inc. that operates the Science.ai platform for the journal. *Precision Nanomedicine* enjoys strategic support from our Honorary Board members, who graciously offered their own prestige, respect, and expertise for the betterment of science publications.

- c. Articles will be published online, continuously, and with DOI, volume, issue, and page numbers – there is no need for “In Press” category at *PRNANO*.
 - d. Published papers will be compiled into quarterly issues organized by topics according to the National Library of Medicine classification system.
8. For Authors: ***PRNANO wants you to focus on the content and not the format.*** For submissions, both MSWord and pdf files are accepted in any commonly used structure which contain all information necessary to evaluate the manuscript.
 9. Authors may submit either *original articles and replication studies* such as, manuscripts that reproduce, evaluate, and confirm research results to move the field forward. Similarly, discussions of *negative results* are also welcome.
 10. *Authors retain the ownership of their copyrighted material.* Readers/users are free to copy and redistribute the contribution in any medium or format and/or remix, transform, and build upon non-commercial use of the material assuming they give appropriate credit [8] to the contribution, provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made.
 11. We will build our network through personal and society networks and referrals and will *always support our members and Science.*
 12. We encourage patience, honesty, integrity, and being helpful to fellow scientists.

Conclusion

Now it is up to us to turn principles into practice and publish good quality articles with reliable content, realistic turnaround times, affordable and real publishing costs for authors, and ensure articles are free for individual readers and libraries. We all have had enough of the great promises and it is time to focus on practical and reliable knowledge.

We know that earning respect requires time, resilience, hard work, and the involvement of fellow scientists who know our mission and not only agree with it but offer their active support.

***COME AND BE PART OF OUR ENDEAVOR, MAKE SURE THAT WE ARE REAL.
IF YOU LIKE US, ENGAGE YOUR FRIENDS!***

*Register and submit your manuscript at <https://precisionnanomedicine.com>.
Thanks to our supporters, **CLINAM** and **SCIENCE.AI**, SUBMISSION IS FREE IN 2018!*

Best,

Lou

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