

Publish and perish. Publish and be damned. Caveat the Author

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Scientific publishing is a great form of communication, and scientists, including biomedical scientists, are supposed to be objective and somewhat detached from the myriad of emotions that we common mortals are exposed to. If it only were true!

Over the last three decades, biomedical publishing has become big business, and publishing has been one of the ways in which careers can be advanced. Or destroyed. Scholarly journals are also an unique venue to express one's opinion, and make sure that one's voice is heard.

Muscles Ligaments and Tendons Journal (MLTJ) has now reached its fourth year of publication. What an adventure this is proving to be. At all times, the Editor

and the Editorial Board have tried to secure the scientific quality of the journal, and this has been witnessed by the swift inclusion in databases such as PubMed and Scopus.

The mission of MLTJ is to favour scientific exchange, and to foster discussion. As of late, there have been one or two episodes that have made me think. If some Authors start a discussion, for example in the form of a letter, they should always consider the danger of the publish and perish paradigm. A publication can be retracted for a variety of reasons: please have a look at <http://retractionwatch.com/>, and you will see how often it happens.

A given Author cannot demand that the publication of another Author is retracted because the tone or the content is not to the liking of the first Author. Obviously, if the content of a given publication is proven to be wrong, plagiarised, self-plagiarised, etc., then it is correct to retract the publication in question, and I would have no problems in doing so.

So, Authors beware: if you do not wish to stand behind what you wrote, well what I, as the Editor in Chief of MLTJ, am obliged to say is 'Tough: you wished it published in the first instance'.