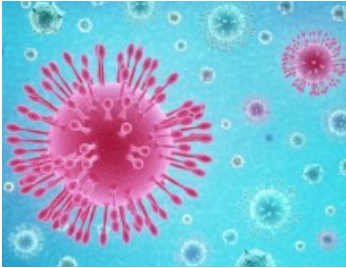


THE COMPASS

A BULLETIN BY THE RESEARCH INTEGRITY AND ETHICS OFFICE



Coronavirus study was flawed?

A [study published in the New England Journal of Medicine \(NEJM\) on 30 Jan](#), claiming that the new coronavirus could be transmitted by people without symptoms, turns out to be flawed. In a news report by Science magazine, the authors of the paper admitted that they did not independently verify that the asymptomatic patient was indeed without any symptoms. [\[+Read more\]](#)

Predatory Publishers and Conferences

In a recent Nature article titled "[Predatory journals: no definition, no defence](#)", the authors discuss problems in identifying predatory publications and provide a guidance on defining this term.

Characteristics of predatory publishing include:

- Publishers presenting [false or misleading information](#) on itself.
- [Deviation](#) from accepted best editorial and publication practices.
- [Lack of transparency](#) in editorial and review procedures.
- Aggressive, indiscriminate [solicitation](#).

The authors note troublingly a **deliberate choice** by some researchers to publish in predatory journals given the prevalence of a "publish-or-perish" culture in some institutions. Others knowingly attend predatory conferences to boost their CVs or gain presentation experience.

Separately, South Korea's education ministry recently [announced](#) a policy to stop researchers from participating in conferences that have "**little academic value**". In **NTU**, we are actively looking out for predatory conferences being held on campus, and telling organisers to hold these elsewhere.



IRB Seminar

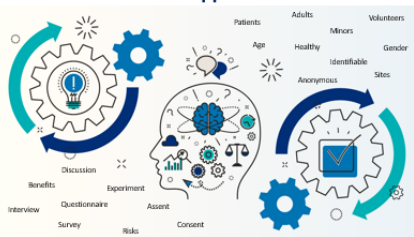
RIEO will be conducting a seminar on the **Basics of IRB Ethics Applications and Reviews** for researchers to better understand the IRB reviewing and approval process.

The seminar will be held on **25 Feb 2020, 3pm—4pm** at [LT12, NS2-04-13](#). Topics covered include:

- Levels of risk categories
- Types of reviews and approvals
- Common mistakes in writing an application
- HBRA / Human Tissue determination and Informed Consent Form.
- Post-approval processes

Seats are limited so click [here](#) to register for the event, or write to irb@ntu.edu.sg for more information.

Basics of IRB Ethics Applications & Reviews



Deadlines: **NTU-IACUC:** Next due date for new AUP submissions is **2 Mar 2020**. [\[+Read more\]](#).
NTU-IRB: New submissions are due on Mondays of every week. [\[+Read more\]](#).

Email Us: [NTU-IRB](#) [NTU-IACUC](#) [RIEO](#) [NTU Research Integrity Officer](#)

Web Links: [NTU-IRB](#) [NTU-IACUC](#) [Research Integrity](#) [ARFMS](#)

