



International Family Nursing Association

What is a Predatory Conference?

A predatory conference is one that is not organized by scholarly associations, but is put together by revenue-generating companies (Beall, 2015). As Beall explains, the purpose of these predatory conferences is exploitative, rather than educational, as the companies seek to benefit financially from researchers' needs to make conference presentations and publish papers (2015).

Many IFNA members recently received invitations to a "CPD Accredited" conference on family nursing, to be held in Philadelphia in June 2016 (5th annual) and again in San Antonio in September 2016 (28th annual). Signs that this is a predatory conference include:

- It does not appear to be associated with any specific nursing association, but is one of many conferences on multiple topics and multiple locations, promoted by conferenceseries.com.
- Supported by a number of open-access journals.
- Topics frequently bear little connection to family nursing. For instance, topics on Day 2 include "returning to work after depression", "venous leg ulcers", and "delayed lactogenesis in women with gestational diabetes mellitus II".
- The website itself is suspect given that the web browser Firefox warns that the connection is not secure.
- Information on the website is unclear or misleading. For example, a link titled "sponsors" on the website goes to a page requesting sponsorship.
- Discrepancies such as the "5th annual" and "28th annual" occurring 4 months apart in 2016, as noted above.
- Poor grammar in the invitation email.
- Abstract submission remains open, and there are no guidelines for abstract submissions.
- The conference occurs every four months.
- An IFNA member was listed as a speaker without her knowledge. (Since she discovered this and contacted the organizers, her name has been removed).

There are a number of other clues that can assist to determine if a conference is predatory. For further references, see:

- Beall, J. (2015). Predatory journals and the breakdown of research cultures. *Information Development*, 31(5), 473-476. doi: 10.1177/0266666915601421

- Beall, J. (July 14, 2015). *Another Taiwan-based mega-scholarly conference organizer emerges* [blog post]. Retrieved from <https://scholarlyoa.com/2015/07/14/another-taiwan-based-mega-scholarly-conference-organizer-emerges/#more-5666>.
- Beall, J. (April 26, 2016). *Another predatory conference organizer from Asia: Academic Fora* [blog post] Retrieved from <https://scholarlyoa.com/2016/04/26/another-predatory-conference-organizer-from-asia-academic-fora/>
- Bowman, J. D. (2014). Predatory publishing, questionable peer review, and fraudulent conferences. *American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education*, 28(10), 176, doi: [10.5688/ajpe7810176](https://doi.org/10.5688/ajpe7810176)
- Owens, J. K. (2015.) More trends in predatory publishing practices. *Nurse Author & Editor*, 25(1), 3. Retrieved from <https://naepub.com/predatory-publishing/2015-25-1-3/>

We encourage IFNA members to participate in scholarly activities that advance knowledge in family nursing and transform practice with families; however, we urge caution to ensure that these activities designed to promote family nursing are associated with legitimate and reliable organizations.

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