Reviewer's report

**Title:** Scientific publications in ophthalmic journals from China and other top-ranking countries: A 12-year survey of the literature

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 7 March 2013

**Reviewer:** Yuanbo Liang

**Reviewer's report:**

There are some concerns:

General comments:

1. Is number of international journals increased in the last 10 years? Is number of publications published in one journal increased in the last 10 years? The increasing number of publications may not reflect the active degree of research, but due to the enlarged capacity of journals.

2. The major outcome measures are number (quantity) and quality of publications. Can “Impact factors”, “level of evidence(study design)”, number of papers published in TOP 10% journal also based on impact factors represent quality? Maybe? But you have to pay a few more sentences in the introduction or methodology to elucidate the relationship.

3. Selected countries for comparison: why not include India, Brazil, which are more comparable to China. The change of number of publications in the last 10 years would be more interesting

4. It would be perfect that if you can find some underlying reasons for the changes in the last 10 years and for the differences among countries.

Specific:

**Title:**

1. I would like to use “review” instead of survey.

2. I would like to confine to English ophthalmic journals.

Because of language, the results are selective. It is hard to say that the papers published in local journal had a lower quality. And I suggest you mention this possible bias in discussion part.

**Abstract:**

Results: it would be good to provide data in the results to support your conclusion.

Conclusion: it would be better to concentrate on China itself; other countries are just a reference.

Background: from you introduction we cannot see any linkage between the blindness and number of publications. What is the significance of this paper?
Methodology

IOVS is not included your IOP 10% journal, seems questionable. While “ocular surf” is a journal of subspecialty.

Discussion:

1. You may emphasize the increase of publications in International Journal in 10 years in China; it now becomes the Second in the world. Why, how?
2. What is underlying reasons of the differences of publications among countries? Due to number of Investigators, research fund, number of ophthalmologists. I believe it is socioeconomic related. It would be interesting if you could find some associations.
3. How many English journals in each country, it is comparable among countries?
4. Why China prefers molecular vision? Any explanations?
5. What are the criteria to assess the quality? IF: may not represent quality. It is not always recognized among scientists.
6. Please don’t use “quality” very often; high IF may not represent “high quality”. It may be related, but IF is influenced by many factors.

References:

3 and 7 are duplicate;
5: the format should be wrong. is It a website? Please refer to the instructions for authors.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests