Reviewer’s report

Title: Barriers to Publishing in Biomedical Journals Perceived by a Sample of French Researchers: Results of the DIAzePAM Study

Version: 0 Date: 17 Mar 2017

Reviewer: Laurence Le Cleach

Reviewer’s report:

The manuscript entitled "Difficulties of Getting Articles Published in International Journals. Results of the DIAzePAM Online Survey Involving 1,191 French Medical Researchers" reported interesting information on motivations, barriers and unmet needs of French researchers regarding publications. It also suggested important organizational room for improvement. Although the survey was carried out in France and thus had some specificities link to "Assistance Publique-Hôpitaux de Paris (APHP)" research organization; many points reported concern all non-native English researchers and beyond all researchers that have together physician and/or teaching tasks. The survey was rigorously conducted.

I have some questions or suggestions:  
* How many medical doctors have tested the questionnaire?  
* How many questionnaires have been excluded because not fully answered?  
* L 78 "All these recommendations and requirements are available for authors to consult, but unfortunately are in fact little known, and complicate the publication process".

Please add a reference  
* L 138 "The main sociodemographic and occupational characteristics of respondents are presented in Table 1"

I suggest to report here information to allow the reader to appreciate if respondents are representative of the population of APHP medical doctors in terms of age, sex, position..  
* L 159 Female gender and working as hospital practitioner or senior registrar/hospital university assistant were significantly associated with limited skills in English.

I suggest adding associated to perceived or self reported limited skills
To increase the readability of results section I suggest to decrease the number of percentage reported and to add subtitles

Were all APHP researchers included in Sigaps database or only those with at least one published paper? If not all, could you provide the ratio on total physician, pharmacist …at APHP/ total number of included participants to the survey.

A recently published survey compared characteristics and barriers of researchers publishing in high vs low impact journals (Paiva CE, What are the personal and professional characteristics that distinguish the researchers who publish in high- and low-impact journals? A multi-national web-based survey. Ecancermedicalscience. 2017 Feb 7;11:718.) some explored items in this survey are the same and results could be discussed.

**Are the methods appropriate and well described?**
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Does the work include the necessary controls?**
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

**Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?**
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?**
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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