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: 13 Mar 2017

Reviewer: Dileep Rohra

Reviewer’s report:

Major comment: Everywhere in the manuscript from the title to the conclusion, the emphasis has been on the difficulties on getting published. However, if you look closely at the questionnaire and the data presented, it is related to manuscript writing. In the whole questionnaire, only question no 9 asks about the difficulties in getting the acceptance of the paper. All other items ask about the difficulties in manuscript preparation. Accordingly, the title, the discussion and the conclusion must be rephrased.

Minor comments:

1. Out of 8186 researchers contacted, only 15% responded. This response rate introduces a bias in the study, which the authors have already mentioned in the limitations. It is highly likely that the researchers who have concerns, responded to the e mails. The remaining overwhelming majority had no interest in participation.

2. Line 134-136: Please elaborate this sentence that after exclusion of incomplete responses, a total of 1191 responses were included in the study.

3. Line 150-152: These sentences are confusing. In fact, I could not figure out the meaning.

4. Line 185-186. Increase in acceptance and avoid refusals is the same thing. I propose to combine these data under one heading.

5. Line 239: It can be hypothesized. I think this is not a hypothesis; rather the data is suggestive of what you are saying in the later part of the sentence.

6. Table 1: Percentage in headings of age, Position must be 100. On the same note, the subheadings on Degrees are missing. There is mention of only 737 respondents and 62%. If the data is missing/other than PhD or HDR, you can add a third subheading of others/unknown and completing the number and 100%.

7. Fig 2: What is primacy of novelty? I know you cannot change the heading now since this is the way you asked in the questionnaire. It would be appropriate if you explain this term somewhere in the Methods or Results or use a easier to understand term.
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.

No

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 recommend additional statistical review

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

Needs some language corrections before being published

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