Reviewers report

Title: A 10-year follow up of publishing ethics in China: What is new and what is unchanged

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Reviewer: Ana Marusic

Reviewers report:

This is an interesting study on an ethically challenging topic for scientific publishing. It is commendable that the authors followed up their findings from the 2008 study.

It would also be interesting looking at the actual practices of publishing in the journals, not only journal policies. The authors state that the journals in the study were chosen because they published articles on transplantation. Could it be accepted that theses practices changed over time? It would be interesting to see how authors addressed the ethical issues related to transplantation in their articles and whether there was change over time. I understand that that may be outside of the scope of the paper, but this has to be mentioned as a limitation to the study.

My specific comments (in order of appearance, not of importance).

1. Abstract: as there were 11 journals, there is not point in calculating percentages - raw numbers are fine.

2. Methods: the journals in the study were identified in a prior study, which is referenced, but it would be useful to describe this in more detail, so that the readers can understand the rationale for their choice.

3. Method: "Chinese translation was performed ..." - this is obviously translations from Chinese to English.

4. It is not clear what is meant by the policy that "data have integrity.

5. Discussion - first sentence - it should be clarified how ease of access can facilitate the readership? Perhaps it can facilitate easy access and visibility - this should be clarified.

6. Discussion page 6, line 26-27 - not clear which is The Transplantation Society? Global, US, Chinese??

7. The language of the paper needs to be checked for style at places.
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I have collaborated with Dr. Katrina Bramstedt in discussions on research integrity in the Council of Europe Mutual Learning Exercise on Research Integrity. We do not have joint publications or research grants.

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