I think I submitted to a predatory journal. What do I do now?

01. Do not pay the publication fee
Before you confirm the legitimacy of the journal, do not pay any relevant article processing charges. Instead, try to email the journal's Editor to withdraw the accepted submission.

02. Do not sign a copyright agreement
If the paper you submitted to a predatory journal gets accepted, do not sign a copyright agreement. Instead, try to email the journal's Editor to withdraw the accepted submission.

03. Write to the journal to withdraw/retract the submitted/accepted manuscript
Persistence is key, if you do not get a response, follow-up. If the Editor-in-Chief does not respond, consider copying the e-mails of Editorial Board members in your correspondence. Consider if there is a resource at your institution to support you in your correspondence.

04. Resist the journal’s request for any withdrawal/retraction fee
Some predatory journals might ask you to pay a withdrawal/retraction fee to remove your paper. Do not pay the fee. Instead, continue persistently to ask them to retract your paper. Maintain professionalism and highlight the lack of ethics in any refusal to withdraw your work.

05. Publish responsibly in the future
Submit your work to a new legitimate journal; if the predatory journal refused to retract your article, let the Editor of the new journal know about this situation. Prevent this from recurring by learning to identify predatory journals and publishers before submission.

Please direct questions to Dr. Kelly Cobey.