

APCF FORENSIC SCIENTIST AWARD**Prémio Professor Duarte Nuno Vieira**

(entrega para o melhor trabalho científico submetido entre as comunicações orais e na forma de poster)

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Challenges and opportunities of an international scientific journal in forensic sciences

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Resumo

Traditionally, publishing in recognized peer-reviewed journals has been one of the expected activities for academic forensic practitioners, as well as a means of effectively assessing individual contributions to both science and the profession. A wide variety of parameters have been devised to measure academic standing for both researchers/practitioners and journals that have included the H index and Impact Factor. While these indices have been variably criticized, they have at least attempted to provide objective means of evaluation. Nowadays, however, the world of publishing has changed. Authors can expand their CVs by paying to have their work published in predatory journals or can link in with sometimes many hundreds of authors in mega-authorship papers. Material

can be almost instantly published electronically without peer review through preprint services. Journals are also changing under the impact of financial constraints resulting in many traditional publishing house activities being sent offshore. For example, copyediting is no longer performed and hard copy journals are soon to become a feature of the past. While Mohammed considered that “the ink of the scholar is more sacred than the blood of the martyr”, Samuel Johnson provided an alternative view that “no man but a blockhead ever wrote, except for money”. Perhaps the truth lies somewhere in between. However, to write for peer-reviewed journals nowadays is not an easy task and is one that requires considerable dedication, attention to detail and time commitment.