
The OMICS Group and Its Agents: An Evidence Base

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A recent article suggested that authors should avoid publishing with OMICS, as they have been producing fake articles. Moreover, other publishers often conceal their association with OMICS as the scholarly community is wary of OMICS after a US court fined them US\$50.1 million for deceptive practices. In addition to the 15 publishers previously mentioned (which included OMICS), another five have been identified. Evidence is presented for these nineteen publishers to show their relationship with OMICS. This is the first time that such an evidence base has been presented in a peer-reviewed article. Several small case studies are also presented to demonstrate that some of the publishers are not operating in ways that we would expect of high-quality publishers, noting that further investigation would be useful. Supplementary files are provided, providing details of the web pages that have been archived, as well as other data collected as part of this research.

Keywords: OMICS, Srinubabu Gedela, deceptive practices, case study, ethics, predatory publishing

INTRODUCTION

Downes¹ noted many problems with OMICS journals and articles, including fake authors/articles, plagiarism, and invalid emails. Downes also noted that OMICS operates through many subsidiaries or imprints, which he referred to as ‘agents,’ a term that is adopted here. In his concluding remarks, Downes states ‘it is not hard to believe that OMICS’ shedding of its journals to newly acquired or invented imprints, all of which conceal the name “OMICS” as far as they are able, is no coincidence.’²

The purpose of this article is to present evidence that the agents identified by Downes, as well as a number of others, are related to OMICS. The

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evidence is taken largely from websites. These have been archived on Wayback Machine so that there is a persistent record at the time this article was written. The archived web pages are referenced as endnotes indicating their entry numbers in Supplement 1. The aim is not to record every piece of evidence but to show enough so that it can be concluded that a given agent is affiliated with OMICS.

Many of the agents are already known to be affiliated with OMICS, but others are not quite so well known. Also, different sources provide different lists. It is hoped that this article brings together information about all known agents in a peer-reviewed article. Even if some are missing, this article provides a checkpoint that can be referenced in the future.

The rest of this article is structured as follows: First, related work is presented. The next section lists the agents discussed in this article. Then the companies that have been identified, including details of the directors, as being associated with OMICS are presented. The next section highlights that many OMICS agents list the same telephone numbers on their websites. Then each agent is discussed, as well as evidence showing their association with OMICS and/or other agents. After a number of other observations, the limitations of this research and suggestions for further research are presented, after which some concluding remarks are presented.

RELATED WORK

In March 2019, the OMICS Group Inc, specifically Srinubabu Gedela,³ iMedPub LLC, and Conference Series LLC, was ordered to pay US\$50.1 million ‘to resolve Federal Trade Commission charges that they made deceptive claims to academics and researchers about the nature of their conferences and publications, and hid steep publication fees.’⁴ The summary judgement⁵ was accompanied by a press release,⁶ along with other documents.⁷ A rebuttal of the charges being made was presented by OMIC’s lawyers.⁸

Manley’s view is that the US Federal Trade Commission (FTC) will be unable to collect the fine imposed and that OMICS will not fully comply with the judgement, although some changes were made to its website, such as better explaining OMIC’s article-processing charges, its use of impact factors and its peer-review processes.⁹ Manley also discussed the OMICS case, from the point of view of the main arguments

and counter-arguments presented in the 5920 pages of pleadings, exhibits, and orders.¹⁰

Dyer says that OMICS deceived authors/scientists who attended conferences organized by OMICS subsidiaries (it is the subsidiaries of OMICS that are of particular interest to this article).¹¹ Dyer also noted that the fine amounts to the fees paid by authors between 2011 and 2017 and that, if paid, would be a devastating blow for OMICS. However, it is unlikely that the judgement can be enforced because despite OMICS being legally incorporated in Nevada, USA, its headquarters are in Hyderabad, India. Other factors reported by Dyer included that a full trial was not needed as enough evidence was submitted by the FTC, which OMICS did little to disprove; OMICS failed to show evidence of peer review in about half the articles it published; eminent scientists were listed as peer reviewers when they had not been contacted by OMICS; reviewers were not removed from the OMICS's site when requested to do so; conference speakers were listed on the website but had never agreed to attend; and spoof articles were accepted demonstrating the lack of peer review.¹²

Eko et al., in a book chapter devoted to the OMICS case, provide a lot of context by discussing the open-access publishing model, predatory publishing, and the ethical, legal, and economic issues surrounding scientific publication.¹³ The chapter also focuses on the OMICS court case, including the unsuccessful appeal. It also notes that an important part of the evidence base against OMICS was the publication of hoax papers that demonstrated the lack of peer review, highlighting that OMICS was only interested in the article-processing charges.

This case was reported in the media. The *New York Times* presented the details of the case, also quoting Jeffrey Beall, who said, 'It's great news. There are hundreds of predatory publishers, but OMICS is the evil empire.'¹⁴ The article also noted that the amount of the judgement against OMICS was the amount it had received from its customers between 25 August 2011 and 31 July 2017.

Writing for *Bloomberg*, Deprez and Chen mentioned the start of the legal processes against OMICS, but the article was written before the legal proceedings were concluded.¹⁵ The article initially focuses on OMICS founder, Srinubabu Gedela, and then discusses how pharmaceutical companies (Big Pharma) had used the lack of peer review to publish research that potentially benefitted their companies and/or their product(s).

Boukacem-Zeghmouri et al. presented a case study of why scholars submit to OMICS journals.¹⁶ Among the reasons given were its scope, its impact factor, and its acceptance rate. One worrying aspect was that 49 per cent of the respondents paid the article processing charges using personal funds, some even taking out loans to do so. Only 23 per cent of the respondents were aware of the court case against OMICS.

Ross-White and Wilson say that OMICS is the clearest window we have into the mind of a predatory publisher.¹⁷ Given the fact that OMICS is a proven predatory publisher and the exposure that this has brought the company, it is, perhaps, surprising that it is still in business. Indeed, it appears to be flourishing, as evidenced by the significant rise in the number of journals it publishes. OMICS published 68 journals in 2010, and that number rose to 742 in 2022 (an increase of 991 per cent).¹⁸

OMICS have affiliated themselves with other publishers, which is often not transparent. Downes mentioned several OMICS 'agents' (see Table 1).¹⁹ He deliberately uses the term *agent*, rather than *publisher*, saying that these agents are all subsidiaries of OMICS and OMICS is the only publisher.

Beall, and his (in)famous list,²⁰ was one of the first people to raise the problem of predatory publishers. These publishers charge a fee to publish an article but do not carry out what would be expected of a scientific publisher, such as robust peer review, assuming they carry out any peer review at all. Beall's list was taken offline in 2017, yet it is still referred to today, although there have been calls that it should no longer be used and, indeed, even its previous use should be considered.²¹ Predatory publishing remains a significant issue within the scholarly community. In 2015, Shen and Björk said that there had been an increase in the number of predatory articles from 53,000 in 2010 to 420,000 in 2014, these being published in about 8,000 active journals.²² We are not aware of a peer-reviewed paper that updates these figures, but Cabells monitors about forty thousand journals,²³ and in 2021, it reported that about fifteen thousand journals were classified as predatory.²⁴

Paper mills are another significant challenge that faces the scholarly community.²⁵ The case of Wiley/Hindawi is a useful case study to demonstrate that even a publisher with a good reputation can fall prey to paper mills. In May 2021, Wiley announced the acquisition of Hindawi.²⁶ At that time, Hindawi, an open-access publisher, published about two

TABLE 1. OMICS Agents

#	Agent
01	Allied Academies ^[A001]
02	Andrew John Publishing Inc. ^[A002]
03	Ashdin Publishing ^[A003]
04	Conference Series ^[A004]
05	EuroSciCon ^[A005]
06	Hilaris Publisher ^[A006]
07	Insight Medical Publishing ^[A007]
08	International Online Medical Council ^[A008]
09	International Research Journals ^[A009]
10	IT Medical Team ^[A010]
11	Longdom ^[A011]
12	Open Access Journals ^[A012]
13	OMICS International ^[A013]
14	Pulsus Group Ltd ^[A014]
15	Prime Scholars ^[A015]
16	Research & Reviews ^[A016]
17	Scholars Central ^[A017]
18	SciTechnol ^[A018]
19	Trade Science ^[A019]
20	Walsh Medical Media ^[A020]

Note: The bracketed information relates to the agent's information in Supplement 1.

hundred journals, with a 2020 projected revenue of US\$40 million, with a year-on-year growth of 50 per cent. In December 2023, Hindawi²⁷ and Wiley reported that Hindawi had been the subject of 'unethical manipulation through papermills, peer review rings, and other forms of fraud.'²⁸ The white paper they published provides more detail.²⁹ As early as May 2023, Retraction Watch was reporting that 'Hindawi will cease publishing four journals that it identified as "heavily compromised by paper mills"³⁰ and later reported that Hindawi had retracted eight thousand papers in 2023, more than had ever been retracted by all publishers combined, in a single year.³¹

OMICS agents are the focus of this article, but as can be seen from the rise in predatory publishers and other unethical practices (such as paper mills), the scientific community faces many other challenges.

Scholarly publishing is based on trust and a general acceptance that it polices itself. But can we trust OMICS and its agents? Indeed, can we trust Wiley and Hindawi, which are resolving the issues they have faced, with no external (or very little) oversight. Moreover, in Wiley's 'Second Quarter Fiscal 2024 Earning Review,' its stated intention to 'sunset' the Hindawi brand could be seen as a way of limiting the long-term effects of this case and protecting its bottom line.³² It will be interesting to see how the scientific literature records this incident for future researchers to access.

THE AGENTS

Downes listed fifteen agents (see [Table 1](#)). Five others (02, Andrew John Publishing Inc.; 03, Ashdin Publishing; 04, Conference Series; 05, EuroSci-Con; 17, Scholars Central) have been identified and added to the table.³³ Agents 04 and 05 promote conferences, which is not really the focus of this article, but they are included as they are important as part of the evidence base that is presented later.

Therefore, this article presents nineteen (as OMICS itself [13] is also shown in [Table 1](#)) agents of OMICS.

COMPANIES

A number of UK addresses kept appearing during this research. Other countries were also present, but UK addresses dominated. Utilizing a UK government website, thirteen companies that are associated with OMICS were identified (see [Table 2](#)). The two companies that are crossed through (04 and 09) have been dissolved. The other eleven are still active.

[Table 3](#) shows the directors of those companies. The table is sorted by company name and then by date. The names in bold are the current active directors. It is noticeable that Gedela is no longer a director of any of these UK-based companies and that the rising star appears to be Mavudi, who is a director of eight of the companies listed, with all those appointments being made in 2022.

TABLE 2. UK-Based Companies Associated with OMICS

#	Company	Company Number	Registered Address	Supplementary 1 Ref
01	Allied Academies	10472792	Boundary House	C001a/b
02	Conference Series LLC Limited	09604128	Boundary House	C002a/b
03	Euroscicon Limited	10485300	Ruddlesway	C003a/b
04	Imed Publications Limited	10305005	Bloomsbury Way	C004a/b
05	Imedpub Limited	08776635	The Vineyard	C005a/b
06	Open Access Journals Ltd	13678902	Boundary House	C006a/b
07	Prime Scholars Library Ltd	13678847	Boundary House	C007a/b
08	Prime Scholars Ltd	14207750	Boundary House	C008a/b
09	Pulsus Group Ltd	10304551	Bloomsbury Way	C009a/b
10	Pulsus Healthtech Ltd	10965332	Ruddlesway	C010a/b
11	Scholars Central Ltd	13679440	Boundary House	C011a/b
12	Walsh Digital Media	14208362	Boundary House	C012a/b
13	Walsh Medical Media Ltd	13678978	Boundary House	C013a/b

Note: The full addresses are **Boundary House:** Office 317 Boundary House, Cricket Field Road, Uxbridge, Middlesex, UB8 1QG; **Ruddlesway:** 35 Ruddlesway, Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 5SF; **Bloomsbury Way:** 40 Bloomsbury Way, Lower Ground Floor, London, United Kingdom, WC1A 2SE; **The Vineyard:** 45 The Vineyard, Richmond, London, TW10 6AS. Company names that are struck-through have been dissolved.

Source: 'Search the Register,' [UK.gov](https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/), accessed 15 October 2023, <https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/>.

MAVUDI

Looking more closely at Mavudi, she appears to have two given names, spelled in two ways: Anita³⁴ and Anitha.³⁵ We believe that they are the same person as their dates of birth are the same (June 1989); the registered

TABLE 3. Directors of OMICS Agent Companies

Company	Director	Date	Reason
Allied Academies Limited	GEDELA, Srinubabu	10-Nov-2016	Appointed
Allied Academies Limited	ETURI, Jagadeswara Rao	08-Nov-2021	Appointed
Allied Academies Limited	GEDELA, Srinubabu	08-Nov-2021	Resigned
Conference Series LLC Limited	GEDELA, Srinubabu	22-May-2015	Appointed
Conference Series LLC Limited	ETURI, Jagadeswara Rao	20-Aug-2019	Appointed
Conference Series LLC Limited	GEDELA, Srinubabu	08-Jun-2020	Resigned
Conference Series LLC Limited	MAVUDI, Anitha	20-Sep-2022	Appointed
Euroscicon Limited	GEDELA, Srinubabu	17-Nov-2016	Appointed
Euroscicon Limited	ETURI, Jagadeswara Rao	20-Aug-2019	Appointed
Euroscicon Limited	GEDELA, Srinubabu	06-Mar-2020	Resigned
Imed Limited	MENENDEZ GONZALEZ, Manuel	15-Nov-2013	Appointed
Imed Publications Limited	GEDELA, Srinubabu	01-Aug-2016	Appointed
Imed Publications Limited	GEDELA, Srinubabu	16-Jan-2018	Dissolved
Open Access Journals Ltd	ETURI, Jagadeswara Rao	14-Oct-2021	Appointed
Open Access Journals Ltd	MAVUDI, Anitha	20-Sep-2022	Appointed
Open Access Journals Ltd	ETURI, Jagadeswara Rao	20-Sep-2022	Resigned
Prime Scholars Library Ltd	ETURI, Jagadeswara Rao	14-Oct-2021	Appointed
Prime Scholars Library Ltd	MAVUDI, Anitha	20-Sep-2022	Appointed
Prime Scholars Library Ltd	ETURI, Jagadeswara Rao	20-Sep-2022	Resigned
Prime Scholars Ltd	MAVUDI, Anita	01-Jul-2022	Appointed
Pulsus Group Ltd	GEDELA, Srinubabu	01-Aug-2016	Appointed
Pulsus Group Ltd	GEDELA, Srinubabu	16-Jan-2018	Dissolved

(Continued)

TABLE 3. Continued

Company	Director	Date	Reason
Pulsus Healthtech Ltd	MAVUDI, Anitha	15-Sep-2017	Appointed
Pulsus Healthtech Ltd	ETURI, Jagadeswara Rao	20-Aug-2019	Appointed
Pulsus Healthtech Ltd	MAVUDI, Anitha	01-Sep-2020	Resigned
Pulsus Healthtech Ltd	MAVUDI, Anitha	20-Sep-2022	Appointed
Pulsus Healthtech Ltd	ETURI, Jagadeswara Rao	20-Sep-2022	Resigned
Scholars Central Ltd	ETURI, Jagadeswara Rao	14-Oct-2021	Appointed
Scholars Central Ltd	MAVUDI, Anitha	20-Sep-2022	Appointed
Scholars Central Ltd	ETURI, Jagadeswara Rao	20-Sep-2022	Resigned
Walsh Digital Media Ltd	MAVUDI, Anita	01-Jul-2022	Appointed
Walsh Medical Media Ltd	ETURI, Jagadeswara Rao	14-Oct-2021	Appointed
Walsh Medical Media Ltd	MAVUDI, Anitha	20-Sep-2022	Appointed
Walsh Medical Media Ltd	ETURI, Jagadeswara Rao	20-Sep-2022	Resigned

Note: Names in bold are current active directors.

Source: 'Search the Register,' [UK.gov](https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/), accessed 15 October 2023, <https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/>.

addresses of all eight companies, where she is a director, have her correspondence address at Office 317, Boundary House; and the companies for which Anita is a director have similar names to two of the other companies (i.e., Prime Scholars Library Ltd/Prime Scholars Ltd and Walsh Digital Media Ltd/Walsh Medical Media Ltd), where her name is spelled 'Anitha,' and her country of residence is given as India. For the other six companies, the country of residence is given as England.

Gedela refers to his wife as both Anita and Anitha, as he has used these spellings in two of his Facebook posts.³⁶ Anita, as the wife of Gedela, is also mentioned in a *Bloomberg* article.³⁷

Anitha Gedela has a Facebook profile,³⁸ which includes images of Srinubabu Gedela, together with their children. She is currently the director of six companies in India.³⁹ The following are of particular interest:

- **OMICS Entertainment Private Limited**⁴⁰ and **OMICS International Private Limited**.⁴¹ Anitha Gedela is a current director of these companies, and Srinu Babu Gedela is a former director.

- **OMICS Online Publishing Private Limited:**⁴² Both Anitha Gedela and Srinu Babu Gedela are current directors.
- **Pulsus Healthtech LLP:**⁴³ Both Anitha Gedela and Srinu Babu Gedela are current directors. The company name is the same as the UK company⁴⁴ (apart from Ltd and LLP, which means it is a limited liability company in their respective countries). Anitha Mavudi is a director of the UK entity.

From the preceding observations, I believe that Anita/Anitha Mavudi and Anita/Anitha Gedela are the same person and is married to Srinu-babu Gedela.

Company Addresses

Looking at [Table 2](#), four registered addresses are present.

Eight of the companies are registered at Boundary House, two at Rudlesway and one at the Vineyard. The two companies registered at Bloomsbury have been dissolved. Pulsus Group Ltd. is registered at Bloomsbury, and its one director (Gedela) has the correspondence address of Lakeside House, 1 Furzeground Way, Heathrow Stockley Park, Heathrow, Middlesex, England, UB11 1BD. A contact address from an OMICS website shows this same address as OMICS's International, UK Head Office.⁴⁵

Some directors have previously used 40 Bloomsbury Way as a correspondence address, making it possible to associate OMICS agents with this address, and it is probable that companies used to operate out of this address and that, in recent years, the companies have moved to Uxbridge (Boundary House).

It was noted in the introduction that Srinubabu Gedela was named in the FTC action. Regarding the UK companies, there is one called Conference Series Limited (02 in [Table 2](#)) and another called Imed Publications Limited (04 in [Table 2](#)). It is not clear what the relationship is between these companies and the ones named in the FTC action. Gedela was a previous director of both of these companies (see [Table 3](#)). He has been a director of five of the UK companies shown in [Table 2](#), but they have either been dissolved or he has resigned.

Referencing [Table 3](#), there are three people who are current, active directors – ETURI (3 companies), MAVUDI (8 companies), and MENENDEZ GONZALEZ (1 company). Mavudi was appointed to two companies in July 2022 and six companies in September 2022.

It is recognized that having multiple companies at the same address is not unusual; indeed, it is common. If this were the only evidence to link the various agents, it would not be sufficient to draw the conclusion that the companies are related. However, the other evidence that is presented (e.g., directors, past and present; companies with similar names in India; links between web pages; etc.) does provide support for the companies being registered at similar addresses being associated with OMICS. There are other companies at these addresses, but we are not suggesting that these are associated with OMICS.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

By inspecting websites, it becomes apparent that the same telephone numbers are used by different agents (see [Table 4](#)). The table can be read as follows: The agent number refers to the agents shown in [Table 1](#). The telephone numbers are shown in the second column, and each cell is a reference to the supplementary file which shows evidence of the telephone number being used. As an example, EuroSciCon (agent 5)⁴⁶ shares the telephone number +44 203-966-4288 with the International Online Medical Council (8)⁴⁷ and OMICS International (13).⁴⁸ By reading across the table, you can see the telephone number and how many agents share that number. By reading down the table, you can see how many telephone numbers an agent shares with other agents. The only agent that does not share a telephone number is Prime Scholars (15). Their contact number is given as '+44 7389 646067' on their home page.⁴⁹

AGENT ANALYSIS

Evidence is now presented for each agent shown in [Table 1](#), showing their relationship with one, or more, of the other agents, as well as with OMICS. After presenting the agents, some general comments are made about why/when some of these agents were acquired and how they have acted since that time.

Allied Academies

Srinubabu Gedela was a director of Allied Academies, appointed 10 November 2016, resigned 8 November 2021 (see [Table 3](#)).

TABLE 4. Shared Telephone Numbers

#	Phone Number	Agent																		
		01	02	04	05	06	08	09	11	12	13	14	15	16	18	20				
1	+44 203-769-1765		G067							G066		G069 G070					G068			
2	+44 203-966-4288				G073 G081		G075				G006									
3	+44 203-318-0199	A001 G076		A004 G080	A005	G079						A014 G077 G078								
4	+32 280-814-31					G082			G083											
5	+44 203-514-2346									A013										
6	040-33432500											G085 G086								
7	+44 738-9645-281							A009					G087				A020			
8	+44 203-807-3712				G106 G107 G108															
9	+44-7360-538437	G121																		

Note: The A and G numbers indicate entries in Supplement 1.

The address for Allied Academies is given on its website as 40 Bloomsbury Way⁵⁰ (see the ‘[Company Addresses](#)’ section).

OMICS International is mentioned on many of Allied Academies’ web pages, for example.⁵¹

Andrew John Publishing Inc.

In September 2016, the *Toronto Star*⁵² and CTV News⁵³ (including a statement from Gedela⁵⁴) both reported that OMICS had acquired Andrew John Publishing. Other media outlets also reported this sale. An OMICS web page⁵⁵ reports that Pulsus bought Andrew John Publishing. Brown⁵⁶ reported that Andrew John Publishing had been bought by iMedPub, a subsidiary of OMICS. This paper also contains other information about the OMICS/FTC case.

The address for Andrew John Publishing Inc. is given as 40 Bloomsbury Way⁵⁷ (see the ‘[Company Addresses](#)’ section).

Ashdin Publishing

An OMICS announcement⁵⁸ states that it acquired journals from Ashdin Publishers. Other publishers are also mentioned (Aston Journals and LibPubMedia) on the same page, but the links no longer work. In 2013, Project Euclid reported that an Ashdin Publishing journal (the *Journal of Physical Mathematics*) had been transferred to OMICS International.⁵⁹

Conference Series

Conference photographs from 2011 to 2015 are hosted on pages with the OMICS International logo.⁶⁰ On the OMICS website, it refers to Conferences Series and links to its website.⁶¹ A website, Ambition Box, that lists company details, shows that Conference Series LLC is a subsidiary of OMICS International.⁶²

OMICS International has a profile on *The Conversation*, which references Conference Series LLC.⁶³

The Conference Series website hosts several reports that show an address of 35 Ruddlesway, the registered address of EuroSciCon.⁶⁴ Gedela’s Facebook profile⁶⁵ mentions that he is a director of Conference Series. He actually resigned from this post in June 2020 (see [Table 3](#)).

EuroSciCon

An article on the OMICS website is signed off by Jenny Louise, a program manager for EuroSciCon Ltd.⁶⁶ The address given is 40 Bloomsbury Way (see the ‘[Company Addresses](#)’ section). Jenny Louise can also be found as the program director of a pediatrics conference, which is advertised in another OMICS journal (*Neonatal & Pediatric Medicine*).⁶⁷

On its home page,⁶⁸ EuroSciCon’s address is given as 35 Ruddlesway. An older version of the website shows the address as 40 Bloomsbury Way⁶⁹ (see the ‘[Company Addresses](#)’ section). There are many examples of EuroSciCon Ltd. giving its address as 40 Bloomsbury Way and 35 Ruddlesway on the same web page⁷⁰ (see the ‘[Company Addresses](#)’ section).

Hilaris

Many (perhaps all) Hilaris journals refer to OMICS International, for example.⁷¹

Insight Medical Publishing

Many (perhaps all) Insight Medical Publishing journals refer to OMICS International.⁷² Many of the references are to OMICS journals rather than the Insight Medical Publishing journal. That is, it is promoting OMICS journals, presumably as the two publishers are affiliated.

The OMICS website refers to iMedPub LTD.⁷³ OMICS International has a profile on The Conversation, which refers to IMedPub LLC.⁷⁴ A website, Ambition Box, that lists company details, mentions iMedPub LTD as being part of OMICS International.⁷⁵

The contact page of imed.com, is redirected to a Prime Scholars web page.⁷⁶ If you enter the URL for the iMed Research Journal of Oncology, you are redirected to a journal of the same name on the Prime Scholars website.⁷⁷ The redirects are difficult to document. We can track the network traffic and can see that a redirect is happening, but it was not possible to capture it and store it on Wayback Machine. A Google site search was done⁷⁸ for only imedpub.com, searching for ‘Prime Scholars.’ This returned a large number of search results, which all mentioned Prime Scholars.⁷⁹

IOMC

The *Journal of Steroids & Hormonal Science* is listed on the OMICS website,⁸⁰ but it is an IOMC journal.⁸¹

A 2017 article has OMICS International on the header of the paper.⁸²

International Research Journals

The submission system used by International Research Journals leads to a Scholars Central website.⁸³

IT Medical Team

The home page of IT Medical Team⁸⁴ has its address as Boundary House (see the ‘[Company Addresses](#)’ section). An IT Medical Team web page⁸⁵ promotes a conference which is run by EuroSci-Con. The page also shows the address of 40 Bloomsbury Way (see the ‘[Company Addresses](#)’ section). An IT Medical Team web page⁸⁶ shows the address of 40 Bloomsbury Way (see the ‘[Company Addresses](#)’ section).

Downes⁸⁷ states that IT Medical Team is an imprint of OMICS International, although no evidence is provided.

Longdom Publishing SL

A file on the Walsh Medical Media website⁸⁸ contains an email address for longdommeetings.org. An address is also given of 40 Bloomsbury Way (see ‘[Company Addresses](#)’). A file on the Longdom website⁸⁹ shows the address of 40 Bloomsbury Way (see the ‘[Company Addresses](#)’ section).

Some of the journals on the OMICS website redirect⁹⁰ to Longdom journals. For example (there are many more), the *Journal of Information Technology & Software Engineering*,⁹¹ the *Journal of Tourism & Hospitality*,⁹² and *Internal Medicine*.⁹³

OMICS International

On the OMICS list of journals,⁹⁴ there are many examples where the link to a listed journal leads to another website, rather than to the OMICS website. For example (these are just a few examples – there are many more):

- a. *Gene Technology, Biology and Medicine* and *The Journal of Food Processing & Food Technology* leads to the Walsh Medical Media website.⁹⁵
- b. *The Journal of Steroids & Hormonal Science* leads to the IOMC website.⁹⁶

The Pulsus Group is mentioned on the OMICS website.⁹⁷ On the OMICS website, there is a page dedicated to careers in the Pulsus Group,⁹⁸ and there is a write-up about Dr Srinubabu Gedela. It also includes information about the acquisition of the Pulsus Group.⁹⁹ The *Journal of Analytical & Bioanalytical Techniques*,¹⁰⁰ on the OMICS website, shows the address of 40 Bloomsbury Way (see the ‘[Company Addresses](#)’ section), with the company name EuroSciCon Ltd.

Open Access Journals

Some Open Access Journals’ journals reference OMICS International.¹⁰¹ The contact page for Open Access Journals lists its address as Boundary House (see ‘[Company Addresses](#)’).

Prime Scholars

The OMICS Group is mentioned on the Prime Scholars’ website.¹⁰² There are many conference calls, showing that they are run through EuroSciCon Ltd, with the address of 40 Bloomsbury Way (see the ‘[Company Addresses](#)’ section).¹⁰³ There are many other examples, in addition to those given here. The address for Prime Scholars is given as Boundary House (see the ‘[Company Addresses](#)’ section).¹⁰⁴

Prime Scholars refers to Conference Series LLC.¹⁰⁵ There are many other examples, in addition to those given here.

Allied Academies are referred to on the Prime Scholars’ website.¹⁰⁶

Pulsus

An OMICS web page¹⁰⁷ reports that Pulsus bought Andrew John Publishing and Open Access Journals.

A PDF file on a Pulsus web page¹⁰⁸ lists their global brands. These include Longdom Publishing, Ashdin Publishing, Allied Academies, Andrew John Publishing, SciTehchNol, Insight Medical Publishing,

International Research Journals, Trade Science Inc, Research & Reviews, Allied Business Academies, Conference Series, EuroSci-Con, and Hilaris. The same PDF lists Dr. Srinubabu Gedela as the CEO of Pulsus. Gedela's web page¹⁰⁹ also mentions that he is the CEO of the Pulsus Group. He has a LinkedIn profile,¹¹⁰ which shows that he is the founder of OMICS International and the CEO of Pulsus.

Research & Reviews International Journals

Several (more than referenced here) Research & Reviews journals refer to OMICS International on their home pages.¹¹¹

A conference announcement on behalf of Research & Reviews' *Journal of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences* refers to 40 Bloomsbury Way (see the 'Company Addresses' section).¹¹²

Scholars Central

A paper published by Scholars Central has an advertisement at the end of the article promoting the features and benefits of publishing with OMICS International.¹¹³

Scholars Central's contact address is Boundary House (see the 'Company Addresses' section).¹¹⁴

SciTechnol

Documents, relating to conferences, on the SciTechnol website features OMICS International and Conference Series.¹¹⁵ A conference document on their website has Conferences Series on the header.¹¹⁶ The document looks like an abstract, with the author describing herself as 'working as a Trainee Scientific Relation at OMICS International.'¹¹⁷

SciTechnol's journal *Research Journal of Clinical Pediatrics* mentions OMICS International on one of its web pages.¹¹⁸

SciTechnol's address is given as 40 Bloomsbury Way (see the 'Company Addresses' section).¹¹⁹

Trade Science Inc

Several (more than referenced here) of Trade Science Inc web pages mention OMICS International.¹²⁰

Walsh Medical Media

An OMICS announcement¹²¹ states that it has acquired the journal *Oral Health and Dental Management*. This is a Walsh Medical Media journal.¹²²

ACQUISITIONS AND BEHAVIOUR

The primary aim of this article is to show that the nineteen agents are associated with OMICS. In this section, a small sample of the evidence that might be collected, as a future research project, is presented. Only a small sample has been presented, so no firm conclusions should be drawn about other journals (and their volumes/issues) and agents, but it was thought worthwhile showing some findings as it demonstrates that the OMICS agents that have been identified are not without their own shortcomings and it cannot be assumed that OMICS agents are a way for OMICS to legitimize its operations by adding trusted publishers to its portfolio.

The original Federal Trade Commission charge was reported in August 2016,¹²³ with the final decision being delivered in March 2019. Given the timing of the association with Allied Academies and Gedela becoming a director, one might conclude that OMICS was preparing to diversify away from the OMICS brand, should the FTC judgement go against them. An article in the Emerald City Journal discusses the association between OMICS and Allied Academies.¹²⁴ In addition to reporting the link between OMICS and Allied Academies, it also says that OMICS used the name of Allied Academies to buy other journals, rather than using the OMICS name. The article was dated 11 October 2016, which coincides with the time that action was starting against OMICS.

Andrew John Publishing was acquired around the same time as the FTC charge. Could this have been another acquisition aimed at diversification in response to the FTC charge?

In January 2023, Smut Clyde (a well-known academic sleuth) wrote a blog article about OMICS, mentioning many of its agents.¹²⁵ The article is written in a way that some might find hard to read but the points it makes demonstrate that the OMICS agents are generally not acting in ways that most would consider ethical. The agents mentioned include Allied Academies, Conference Series LLC LTD, EuroSciCon LTD, Hilaris Publishing, iMedPub LTD, Longdom Publishing SL, Pulsus Group, Research & Reviews, SciTechnol, and Trade Science Inc.

Prime Scholars has published some papers with fake authors. In Supplement 2 ('Fake Authors'), examples are provided showing that fourteen articles (by Jane Austen, Charlotte Bronte, and Mark Twain) have been written. These typically are one-page papers, the authors have Gmail accounts, the articles do not have any references, and authors with the given names cannot be found at the institutions given. Other examples include William Shakespeare, but the data have not been captured here.

In February 2023, *Inside Higher Ed* reported that Prime Scholars were publishing fake articles by leading scientists and listing them as editors without their knowledge/permission.¹²⁶ The articles were 'often little more than a page long, probably written by a language-scraping algorithm.'¹²⁷

Supplement 3 ('Insight Medical Publishing') presents data collected about Insight Medical Publishing. The following observations are made, with more detail in the supplementary file.

- a. Extracting data from its website, 120 journals were returned. Although, there is evidence that the agent was publishing pre-2015, these were journals that they subsequently acquired or articles that were misclassified. In reality, the agent came into being in 2015, with twenty-four journals coming into existence. In 2016, a further thirty journals were started. One wonders whether this agent started in response to the charges that were being prepared by the FTC.
- b. As a small case study, one of the journals (*British Biomedical Bulletin*) was considered, looking at all the articles in Volume 11 (2023).¹²⁸

Each of the thirty-five articles has a DOI, but at the time of writing, none of the DOI's were valid (they returned a 'DOI not found error' message). Moreover, for the ten articles in volume 11, issue 1, there are only five DOIs, with each being used for two different papers.

Thirty-three of the articles are single-authored, just one page in length (some are classified as two pages, but they only just go onto a second page), and they have zero references. That is, of the thirty-five articles published in 2023, only two have any references.

The thirty-three single-author articles are classified as 'perspective,' 'opinion,' or 'commentary' articles. The two articles with references (24 in each article) are from researchers that include common authors. The articles are classified as "research."

Every article, including the research articles, uses a Gmail, Hotmail, or Yahoo email address. That is, in 2023, this journal did not publish a single paper that used an institutional email address for any of the authors.

Three authors were investigated further.

Angela Luyet authored a paper from volume 11, issue 1. Her affiliation is given as ‘Department of Biomedical Engineering, University of Michigan, Michigan, USA.’ In the same issue, Steven Adedi authored a paper, with his affiliation being given as ‘Department of Medicine, University of Florida, Gainesville, USA.’ These authors could not be located at the stated institution, nor could we find the author on Google Scholar or Scopus.

Stain Julia authored a paper from volume 11, issue 4. Her affiliation is given as ‘Department of Biomedical Engineering, University of Newcastle, Newcastle, UK.’ We were unable to locate anybody with that name at that institution. Nor could we find the author on Google Scholar or Scopus. Her Gmail address is given as julia_s@gmail.com. This would suggest that the author’s name should be Julia Stain, rather than Stain Julia.

The previously mentioned authors use a Gmail email address. Not using an institutional email address from, what are, prestigious institutions supports the conclusion that these are fictitious authors.

One issue (volume 7, issue 2) of Walsh Medical Media’s *Diabetes Case Reports* was studied.¹²⁹ This issue published five papers.¹³⁰ All the papers are single-authored. The authors are from the following countries: Indonesia, India, Denmark, Canada, and Ethiopia. One of the authors has a Gmail account. The other four authors have email accounts with a domain of ‘[edu.com](https://www.edu.com).’ Searching for two of the authors (Roderburg Pullinger, University of Toronto, and Christiansen Nielsen, Godstrup Hospital, Denmark), returned no results other than the article in *Diabetes Case Reports*. Searching for the email addresses, similarly, returns just the articles being discussed here. No search was carried out on the other three authors.

Four of the articles in volume 7, issue 2 are a single page, with no references. The other article is one and a half pages, with five references. Each of the five papers has a DOI, and clicking on the DOI link leads to that paper. However, this is an internal link to the website. If the standard ‘<https://dx.doi.org/doi>’ is used, this leads to a ‘DOI not found’ error. Listing a DOI that is not valid seems to be a common trait across many of the journals that were examined.

Allied Academies' *Current Trends in Cardiology*, volume 6, issue 6, 2023,¹³¹ published ten articles.¹³² All the articles are single-authored and list their page numbers as '1–2', yet seven of the pages are only a single page. The specified DOIs are invalid. One of the authors (Judith Finn, Aarhus University, Denmark) could not be located. Another paper has an affiliation of 'Department of Cardiology, University of L'Aquila, New South Wales, Australia.' As far as we are aware, this university is in Italy and does not have a presence in Australia.

Why would journals publish one-page articles that have no references using fictitious authors? One conclusion is that it is important for journals to demonstrate that they are publishing regularly and that they have sufficient articles to fill up their issues/volumes. Perhaps, scholars who are considering submitting to these journals satisfy themselves that this is a high-quality journal as they appear to be publishing articles regularly without checking any further?

Some might suggest that the examples given earlier would indicate that the publishers are 'predatory publishers.' However, this term is not clearly defined; it is very emotive and has led to issues in the past when, for example, Beall labelled publishers as predatory, which they took issues with.¹³³ The author of this article prefers the term *unethical publisher*, which can be used to cover a variety of scenarios, not just running a journal for profit, without the robust peer review that we would expect from a legitimate, high-quality journal.

As mentioned at the start of this section, the small number of examples here provides some evidence that the agents of OMICS are unethical in some of their practices, but more research is required to be able to state this definitively.

OTHER OBSERVATIONS

In carrying out the research for this article, a few other observations were made which are mentioned in case they are useful for other researchers.

While looking for the telephone numbers in Table 4, three cases were found that are linked to the agents in Table 1. Lexis Conferences¹³⁴ has phone number 2 on its web page. A ctsnet website¹³⁵ makes reference to Euroscicon and also lists phone number 8. Global Media Journal¹³⁶ has the same number as OMICS (5). Perhaps these entities are also agents of OMICS, although no additional evidence could be found.

The *Journal of Internet Banking and Commerce*¹³⁷ appears to be a standalone journal, but it has several references to OMICS agents.

- (1) It hosts a paper for the *Journal of Clinical Toxicology*.¹³⁸ The same paper is also stored on the Longdom website.¹³⁹ The papers are identical in content but it is noted that one paper specifies OMICS International on the paper's banner but the other version has replaced this with 'Open Access.' The DOI for this paper (10.4172/2161-0495.1000315) provides a permalink to the Longdom website.
- (2) The online submission link, on its home page,¹⁴⁰ takes you to scholarscentral.org (see the 'Telephone Numbers' section).
- (3) The 'Useful Links' at the footer of the home page¹⁴¹ leads to pages hosted on the Research & Reviews website (see the 'Agent Analysis' section). This includes a list of journals but, it is noted, that Research & Reviews does not list the *Journal of Internet Banking and Commerce* on its website.¹⁴²
- (4) The phone number (+44-175-271-2024) on the home page¹⁴³ can also be found on a SciTechnol page¹⁴⁴ (see the 'Telephone Numbers' section).
- (5) The wording for Fast Editorial Execution and Review Process for the *Journal of Internet Banking and Commerce*¹⁴⁵ is identical to the wording for an IOMC journal (and possibly others;¹⁴⁶ see the 'Agent Analysis').
- (6) The journal is listed on the OMICS website,¹⁴⁷ with the link leading to the journal's home page, away from the OMICS website.

LIMITATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

The aim of this article is to provide evidence that certain publishers (referred to as agents) are associated with OMICS. This aim has been achieved, but there are limitations to this study. The evidence base is large and has been archived, but it is certainly not complete, and it would be useful to add to this archived evidence base as more evidence is collected.

The article has shared evidence that some of the agents are acting in ways that are not acceptable by a high-quality publisher, for example, one-page papers, non-existent authors, articles with no references, papers authored by people like Jane Austen and Mark Twain, DOIs that are not available, and more. These findings are only a small sample that *might* be available, and as yet, no firm conclusions can be drawn. It could be

interesting to look at each agent more closely to investigate its behaviour to gauge whether it is acting in ways that are unacceptable to the scientific community or whether its behaviour could be seen as minor discrepancies, albeit that should be corrected.

Some of the evidence that OMICS is affiliated with the agents is 'hidden in plain sight,' in that it is obvious that there is a link between OMICS and an agent (e.g., it has been widely reported that OMICS has bought that agent). Others are not so obvious (e.g., there are web links between OMICS and the agent, but you must search for it). It is probably too strong to say that OMICS is hiding some (all) of its relationships with agents, but it would be useful to produce something akin to a family tree, or an organizational chart, that shows the links between the various entities, how they are related, and how strong those relationships are. This will need an even stronger evidence base than presented here and might include a deeper look at company accounts, editors, authors, hosting providers, and others.

Several UK-based companies have been identified that show, amongst other things, a timeline of the development of OMICS companies and directors. It might prove useful to look at other countries to ascertain if OMICS-affiliated companies are present. India and the USA would be useful starting points.

This article has only presented the evidence base showing how the agents are associated with OMICS. In Kendall and Linacre the significant increase in the number of journals published by OMICS since 2010 was noted.¹⁴⁸ It would be interesting to look at all OMICS agents, report how many journals/articles they publish, and report this over time.

CONCLUSION

Evidence has been presented to show that the nineteen agents listed in [Table 1](#) are affiliated with (or agents of) OMICS. The purpose of this article is not to present every possible piece of evidence. That would be virtually impossible. Rather, the aim is to present enough evidence to demonstrate the links between OMICS and the agents. The supplementary files, in particular the archived web pages, record this evidence and, more importantly, archive it.

This article provides scholars, librarians, and other interested stakeholders with (at least) the names of the agents so that if they are considering submitting their research to one of the journals published by that

agent, they can carry out their own due diligence in order for them to judge whether they believe they are submitting to a reputable journal. The number of journals published by OMICS increased from 68 in 2010 to 742 in 2022.¹⁴⁹ Against this background, if OMICS also has several agents under its control, this is a significant concern as it greatly increases the number of journals that OMICS, or its agents, publishes.

Downes suggested that many of these agents were established to conceal the OMICS name.¹⁵⁰ While there is some transparency between some of these agents, unless you are looking, it is not obvious that they are related to one another. It would be useful to either have an overarching website that provides information about all these agents or have the OMICS website include a dedicated page for describing which other publishers it is affiliated with and the details of those relationships.

Unless/until this is done, this article agrees with Downes that OMICS is (at worst) trying to conceal its relations with other publishers or (at best) not making it easy to find out this information.¹⁵¹

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