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Reply to "Additional Issues to Consider in Radiology Research"

Alkhawtani, Rayan H. M.; Kwee, Thomas C.; Kwee, Robert M.

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Reply to "Additional Issues to Consider in Radiology Research"

We appreciate the interest of Rueda et al. [1] in our article [2]. Funding is needed for many types of research. Costs may include personnel salary, material expenses, and article processing charges. In addition, some medical review committees in certain countries charge costs. In our opinion, Rueda et al. rightly suggest that funding may not be easily accessible to researchers from low- to middle-income countries. Even in high-income countries, distribution of research funding may not be fair. In The Netherlands, for instance, researchers who are not affiliated with an academic institution have a harder time obtaining federal funding than their academic counterparts [3]. The distribution of funding may be prone to the so-called Matthew effect: "To those who have, shall be given; to those who have not shall be taken away even the little that they have" [4].

We do not agree with Rueda et al. [1] that the lower number of authors in unfunded research (mean of 6.9 authors vs mean of 8.7 authors) negatively impacts scientific quality. All articles included in our study that were published in major radiology journals underwent rigorous peer review to ensure quality.

On the issue of open access, undoubtedly that type of publishing has grown exponentially. In a prior study, we found that open access publishing is independently associated with an increased citation, download, and share rate [5]. However, it remains unclear whether research published in an open access publication is of different quality than that contained in non-open access journals.

As Rueda et al. [1] requested, we performed an additional analysis and found a significant association between the presence of a potential conflict of interest and citation rate (β coefficient, 3.65; 95% CI, 0.55–6.67; $p = .02$). The reason for this finding remains unclear. However, it may also be due to the Matthew effect; authors

with a prestigious track record are more likely to have a conflict of interest (e.g., providing paid services to a commercial partner that seeks authoritative advice), and their articles are also more likely to receive citations by others who are attracted by the authors' name and fame [4].

Lastly, we agree that citation rate may not be the best indicator of the scientific impact or scientific quality of an article, but it is still the metric most commonly used by the scientific community [2, 5].

Rayan H. M. Alkhawtani, MD

Thomas C. Kwee, MD, PhD

University Medical Center Groningen
Groningen, The Netherlands

Robert M. Kwee, MD, PhD

Zuyderland Medical Center

Heerlen/Sittard/Geleen, The Netherlands
rmkwee@gmail.com

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