

Other journals in brief

A selection of clinically relevant papers from other journals. The summaries on this page have been chosen and edited by Paul Hellyer. In this issue Paul chooses a selection of papers from the recent Springer Nature *Change the World One Article at a Time* initiative.

Women smile more than men 😊

Large-scale observational evidence of cross-cultural differences in facial behavior

McDuff D, Girard J, el Kaliouby R. *J Nonverbal Behav* 2017; **41**: 1–19

Everyone frowns more in unfamiliar surroundings 😞

Culture influences our facial expressions but whether these expressions of emotion are culture specific – ie different cultures have differing ‘display rules’ – is not known. Display rules are thought to be present to promote group cohesion and prevent interpersonal conflict.

This study examined the facial expressions of 740,984 individuals in 12 countries, in two settings, a market research laboratory and at home, while watching video advertisements. Facial recognition algorithms enabled the recording and measurement of two actions: smiling and brow furrowing.

The study found that negative emotion (brow furrowing) was more common in the non-domestic setting of a research laboratory. The authors suggest that this may indicate that displaying a negative effect is a pan-cultural evolutionary adaptation to protect personal boundaries in an unfamiliar setting. Females expressed more positive emotion (smiling) and less negative emotion than males. It is suggested that men project more negative emotion in order to protect their status.

DOI: 10.1038/sj.bdj.2018.720

1 in 100 people in the UK are on the autistic spectrum

Evidence-based social communication interventions for children with autism spectrum disorder

Watkins L, Kuhn M, Ledbetter-Cho K, Gevarter C, O’Reilly M. *Ind J Pediatr* 2017; **84**: 68–75. DOI: 10.1007/s12098-015-1938-5

Adapting communication styles is important

There are around 700,000 people on the autism spectrum in the UK (www.autism.org.uk). Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is typified by impairments in social and communication skills. Deficits may include failures in back and forth conversation, abnormalities in body language and eye contact, a lack of facial expression and difficulties in adjusting behaviour to social contexts.

Practices that have been shown to improve social interactivity include offering a choice of activities, which increased engagement. If complex behavioural tasks can be broken down into smaller segments, improved social engagement and interaction can occur. Providing visual cues to an activity rather than verbal can have a similar effect. Parental involvement, using an individualised approach for the acquisition of important skills, increases increase attention span and conversational and other skills. Verbal distraction when an interfering behaviour occurs improves social and communication skills.

DOI: 10.1038/sj.bdj.2018.722

Increasing numbers of ‘predatory’ journals

Publishing in black and white: the relevance of listing of scientific journals

Misra D, Ravindran V, Wakhlu A, Sharma A, Agarwal V, Negi V. *Rheumatol Int* 2017; **37**: 1773–1778. DOI: 10.1007/s00296-017-3830-2

Researchers need to chose journals for publication carefully

In recent years, there has been an increase in the number of journals publishing online and in print. The authors suggest that many of these may be ‘predatory’ and lack the vigour of traditional peer review, providing information of low quality, and acceptance of an article for publication is only forthcoming after the payment of a fee. Young researchers are faced with pressures to publish but the choice of where to publish is compounded by the presence of these journals, which often have similar sounding names to existing reputable publications.

The authors discuss the creation of personal ‘white lists’ of appropriate journals for publication, using such indexing facilities as Medline, Pubmed and Web of Science and the importance of understanding how each indexing system works. Personal (and possibly departmental or national representative body) ‘black lists’ may also be helpful. Journals which engage in spam emails, flattery and tight deadlines should be avoided.

‘The temptation to use rapid predatory publishing for promotion and short-term academic furtherance needs to be actively resisted.’

DOI: 10.1038/sj.bdj.2018.721

The patient’s point of view is often unheard

Patient-reported outcomes in cancer care – hearing the patient voice at greater volume

LeBlanc T, Abernethy A. *Nat Rev Clin Oncol* 2017; **14**: 763–772. DOI: 10.1038/nrclinonc.2017.153

Clinical outcomes improve when the patient has input into their care

In the field of cancer care, patient-reported outcomes (PROs) provide a direct measurement of the patient’s experience, including symptom burden, mood, quality of life and distress, amongst others, providing information which is not collected by examination and other clinic-based tests.

Collecting this data electronically (ePROs) is feasible on clinics, is easy to use using 1-10 ordinal scales and yes/no answers. Patients value the opportunity to tell their stories and clinicians frequently underestimate the severity of patients’ symptoms.

Clinicians need to value the feedback received from PROs and recognise that the data gathered is ‘more practical, valid and reliable’ than oral feedback and clinical observations.

Evidence suggests that collection of ePRO data facilitates the development of health care services to be more patient centred and improves both the quality of care and clinical outcomes for individuals.

DOI: 10.1038/sj.bdj.2018.723