

# CHORUS FORUM:

## Trust and Integrity - Threats and Opportunities

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# About me

## Background

- Medicine - 'London Hospital Medical College' now QMUL
- Researcher - PhD Training University of London UK
- Medical Editor – BioMed Central
- Research Integrity Expert – BioMed Central and Springer Nature

Independent Research Integrity Specialist since 2020

COPE Advisor (Committee on Publication Ethics)

# The Threats to Research Integrity

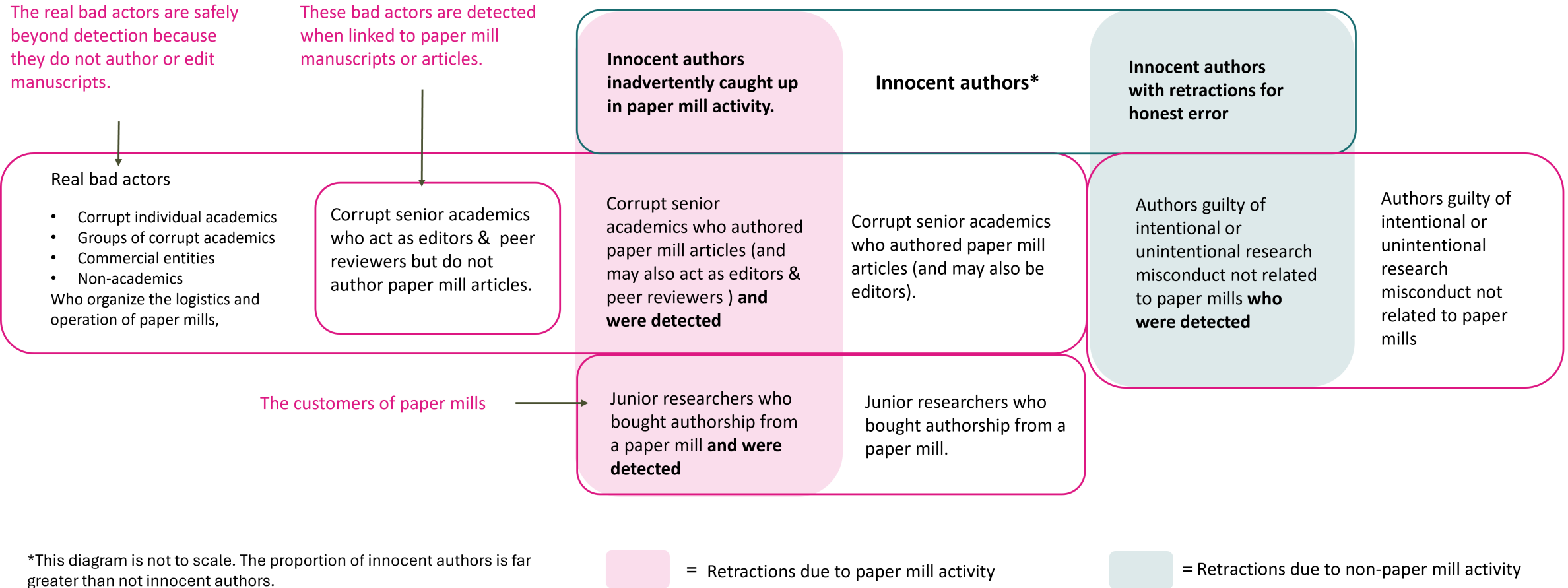
Manipulation of the publication process (paper mills)  
Widespread use of generative AI tools

Affecting all fields

Affecting all types of publications

- Undermining trust in the published scholarly record
- Putting innocent authors at risk

# The cast of characters behind paper mills and retractions



Innocent and junior authors suffer the consequences

# The challenges of GAI tool use

## Innocent authors may be wrongly accused

- Incomprehensible or starts coherent and then 'loses the plot'.
- No logical narrative.
- Long and repetitive.
- Tell-tail signs – tortured phrases. Sentence 'mash ups'
- Simple, naïve tables and diagrams
- No methods described.
- No or minimal data.
- Overly technical.
- Incongruous declarations.
- Questionable citations.

**FABRICATED**

- Possible AI generated literature search or introduction.
- Odd language which could be due to cultural quirks or where English is not a first language.
- Incomplete description of methods and data collection. Could be fabricated or sloppy reporting.
- The use of AI tools in the conduct and reporting of research probably not declared.

**MAY BE FABRICATED OR GENUINE**

- Coherent language
- Logical narrative with a clear rationale for the study.
- Details of how data were collected described in detail.
- Sophisticated tables and diagrams that accurately reflect the described methods.
- Declarations that make sense.
- Appropriate citations.

**GENUINE**

# Legitimate publishing, predatory publishing and paper mills

## Legitimate publishing

Publisher, journal and manuscript level

**Stated standards and QUALITY CONTROL MEASURES**

Innocent authors may inadvertently submit to predatory journals

**Practices that deviate from best editorial and research integrity standards**

## Predatory journals/publishers

**NO QUALITY CONTROL MEASURES**

Exploit the OA model and guarantee publication for various fees.

Imitate legitimate journals to mislead authors.

## Paper Mills

**Bypass** or exploit poor **quality control measures** in *legitimate* journals to ensure that fabricated or real manuscripts will be published in the legitimate journal.

Paper mills may create predatory journals or work with existing predatory publishers to sell the publication of fabricated manuscripts.

# The Opportunities

## Now is the time for collaboration

- Between editors across journals
- Between editors and publishers
- Between publishers

- To formulate best practice and policies
- To share knowledge about detecting and preventing publishing misconduct

## **Between publishing and academic communities (and others)**

- To raise awareness of the threats to research integrity
- To protect innocent researchers
- To promote open science practices



## INTRODUCTION TO COPE

### OUR MISSION

COPE's mission is to provide expert guidance to uphold the integrity of the scholarly record through:

#### COLLABORATION AND PROBLEM SOLVING



Actively bringing together stakeholders to explore and provide solutions to the challenges arising in publication ethics.

#### SUPPORT AND EDUCATION

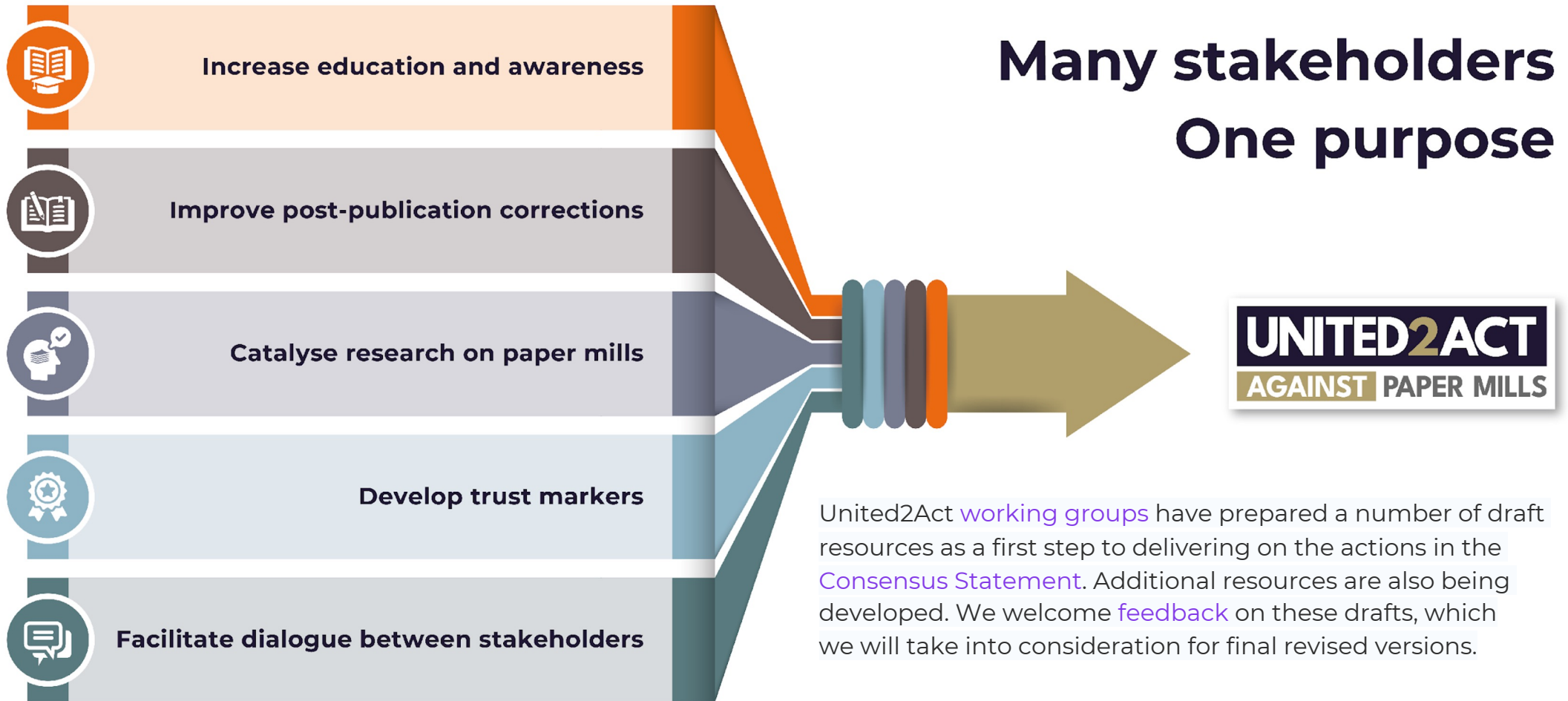


Providing support and education to empower stakeholders to uphold the integrity of the publication process and published record and take corrective action where necessary.

#### LEADERSHIP AND EXPERTISE



Providing leadership and an unbiased expert voice in publication ethics.



Thank you



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