

LETTER

Response from the Editor in Chief

Thank you for raising several important issues that impact authors particularly those in developing countries. The quality of writing is obviously important and is sometimes a reason for a paper to be rejected. We do not have the resources in-house to substantially rewrite papers. I am aware that services have grown up in a number of countries that offer editing of scientific papers for a fee. Another alternative is to ask for help from within an

academic institution—often help can be obtained without payment.

Moreover, I would like to assure you that papers are accepted on merit irrespective of the country of origin or the status of the author(s). Papers from developing countries can make a valuable contribution, although a number are rejected because they do not have a wider international appeal and are more suited to a regional publication.

Finally, I would like to reassure authors that we do not charge fees for publication unless the author requires open access.

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