The recent resignation of the entire editorial board of Neuroimage (IF 7.4) - one of the most prominent scientific journals dedicated to brain imaging research - rekindles the discussion on access to scientific data and the high costs for publication and access to scientific data (1).

The episode highlights the disproportion between the high costs that researchers must pay to publish their research and the exorbitant profit margins of large publishers. It is worth remembering two very important aspects: (1) The entire peer review process that guarantees the quality of publications is carried out by the most distinguished researchers, who receive nothing for this difficult and demanding work; (2) Most of the scientific work produced by academic researchers is funded by government institutions and often part of the costs come out of the researchers’ pockets.

Faced with these facts, the mass resignation of more than 40 renowned scientists from the editorial board of a renowned scientific journal was applauded by a large part of the scientific community. The resignation came in protest at what former publishers describe as the “greed” of a publishing giant after the company refused to cut publishing costs despite the company’s profit margins that are estimated to be close to 40%, according to 2019 data. Former editors say this is “unethical” and unrelated to the costs involved.

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REFERENCE


CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None declared.

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