

Are there too many stem cell journals?

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Are there too many stem cell research journals? This question has been posed by Drs. Paul Sanberg and Cesar Borlongan of the Department of Neurosurgery and Brain Repair at the University of South Florida. Their article appears in the current issue of *Stem Cell Reviews and Reports*.

Both Sanberg and Borlongan are concerned about the quality of the science being published in the proliferating stem cell journals.

"Because [stem cells](#) have the ability to differentiate and proliferate, there has been a great increase in research into stem cell-based regenerative medicine over the last decade," said Sanberg. "Paralleling this trend in research is a similar differentiation and proliferation of stem cell journals."

The authors suggest that the proliferation of stem cell journals may be related to the current trend of publishing 'open access' and on-line journals and their article includes a review of stem cell journals, noting their initial circulation year and impact factors.

"[Stem cell research](#) is one of the most enterprising areas of medical science, so it is not surprising that entrepreneurial publishers have developed numerous publication outlets," said Borlongan.

The authors concluded that whether a further proliferation of stem cell journals continues or does not depends on whether the stem cell field "differentiates" into a "more mature research arena." They recommend that potential authors follow Good Publications Practices when choosing

where to place their work, including assessing the publisher, editorial board membership, manuscript review process, associated organizations, and, in particular, the scientific soundness of studies published by relatively new stem cell journals.

"The development of a more mature stem cell research arena will hinge on the quality of stem [cell science](#) peer review," concluded Sanberg.

Provided by University of South Florida

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