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Dear Dr. Brink,

Thanks for your comments and the reviews of our letter. We were pleased to see that two of the three reviewers were very supportive, and that the third had some constructive comments. We have worked to address those comments, in particular to clarify how we compiled our list of journals, and to present a more clearly balanced view of the OA publishing world. Most of this is achieved in what is now the second paragraph.

It seems from Agrawal’s review of our letter that his intention was not to suggest that all OA journals are bad. The problem as we see it is that it’s impossible to discern this nuance from his letter. We agree completely with Agrawal that scientists should ‘know what they’re getting’ from OA, and that’s why we think it’s important to set the record straight on the important point of the quality of (some) OA journals. We hope that our short contribution does this without being combative, and in light of our revisions we also hope that we are very clear about both the upsides and the downsides of the OA publishing world.

Yours sincerely,

Rob Lanfear