

Editor's Expression of Concern

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Editor-in-Chief

The chief editor expresses her concern as to the allegations of plagiarism disseminated on a large field of personal e-mails, some of them accessed without permission and thus abused, as well as on certain political sites. The dissemination was not only regional, but national, and when it was immediately spread on the internet, the damage could only be figured out.

The allegations regarded some articles previously published since 2010 in our journal. It is our conviction that prior to taking such actions, the journal should be officially informed. Thus we would have had the opportunity to analyze the issues.

The allegations were viciously and falsely fathered consecutively by a character who styled himself as a prominent researcher and voluntary justice maker, further intoxicating the net.

The electronic format of the journal was used without permission.

The editors take seriously all allegations of scientific misconduct. Thus the editorial board quarantined the incriminated articles and submitted them to the Committee of Ethics of Scientific Research of the University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Tîrgu Mureş. The board complies with the Committee's final decision.

When we reached to the conclusion that it was not worth the trouble, and that there was evidence of malicious intent targeting specific authors, when allegations were a practical black joke, we disregarded them. The activity of the Committee is going on.

Retrieval of an article does not imply an equal involvement of all the authors, if any. We do not consider that all the authors are to be blamed. Responsibility is proportional to the actual involvement.

However, we launch a call on the awareness to ghost authorship and gift authorship.

We do not believe in double standards, neither in uniform accountability, as often in medicine there is much gray and only in extreme cases pure white or black.

All the above led to an alteration of the cover letter in order to better detail contribution and thus responsibility.

Nonetheless, the peer-reviewers are also to be warned as to the risks of not being vigilant enough.

There is no excuse for mischievous conduct in relationship to a medical journal.

Finally, due to the fact that the articles were published in our journal, we officially apologize to all those authors who were hurt in this process, be them plagiarized or allegedly plagiarizers, further cleared.