


# When a Scholarly, Peer-Reviewed Article Can't Be Trusted: The Covert World of Retracted Articles

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Shawn McCann | Business and Informatics Librarian

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# Outline

1. What are retracted articles?
  2. Top 5 'Hall of Shame' Retracted Articles
  3. Additional information about retracted articles
  4. Search Strategies
    - a. Web of Science
    - b. PubMed
    - c. PsycINFO
    - d. Google Scholar
  5. Incorporating retracted articles into LIB 250
- 



What are retracted articles?

A **retracted article** violates a professional code of ethics



It's the '**self-correction**'  
**method** of scholarly publishing

# Examples of retracted articles

EARLY REPORT

Early report

## Ileal-lymphoid-nodular hyperplasia, non-specific colitis, and pervasive developmental disorder in children

A J Wakefield, S H Murch, A Anthony, J Linnell, D M Casson, M Malik, M Berelowitz, A P Dhillon, M A Thomson, P Harvey, A Valentine, S E Davies, J A Walker-Smith

**Summary**

**Background** We investigated a consecutive series of children with chronic enterocolitis and regressive developmental disorder.

**Methods** 12 children (mean age 6 years [range 3–10], 11 boys) were referred to a paediatric gastroenterology unit with a history of normal development followed by loss of acquired skills, including language, together with diarrhoea and abdominal pain. Children underwent gastroenterological, neurological, and developmental assessment and review of developmental records. Ileocolonoscopy and biopsy sampling, magnetic-resonance imaging (MRI), electroencephalography (EEG), and lumbar puncture were done under sedation. Barium follow-through radiography was done where possible. Biochemical, haematological, and immunological profiles were examined.

**Findings** Onset of behavioural symptoms was associated by the parents, with measles, mumps, and rubella vaccination in eight of the 12 children, with measles infection in one child, and otitis media in two. All 12 children had intestinal abnormalities ranging from lymphoid nodular hyperplasia to colitis. Colonoscopy and histology showed patchy chronic inflammation in 11 children and reactive ileo-lymphoid hyperplasia in seven, but no granulomas. Behavioural disorders included autism (nine), disintegrative disorder (one), regressive postviral or vaccinal encephalitis (two). There were no focal neurological abnormalities on MRI and EEG tests were normal. Abnormal laboratory results were significantly raised urinary uric acid compared with age-matched controls ( $P < 0.03$ ), low haemoglobin in four children, and low ferritin in all 12 children.

**Interpretation** We identify associated gastrointestinal disease and developmental regression in a group of previously normal children, which was generally associated in time with a possible environmental trigger.

Lancet 1998; **351**: 637–41  
See Commentary page

**Inflammatory Bowel Disease Study Group, University Departments of Medicine and Histopathology (A J Wakefield, S H Murch, J Linnell, M A P Dhillon, S E Davies, Murch) and the University Departments of Paediatric Gastroenterology (S H Murch, D M Casson, M Malik, M Berelowitz, A P Dhillon, M A Thomson, P Harvey, A Valentine, S E Davies, J A Walker-Smith), Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (M Berelowitz), Neurology (P Harvey, Murch), and Radiology (A Valentine), Royal Free Hospital and School of Medicine, London NW3 2QG, UK**

Correspondence to: Dr A J Wakefield

THE LANCET • Vol 351 • February 28, 1998

637

RETRACTED

ARTICLE

doi:10.1038/nature12998

## Stimulus-triggered fate conversion of somatic cells into pluripotency

Haruko Obokata<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Teruhiko Wakayama<sup>4</sup>, Yoshiki Sasai<sup>4</sup>, Koji Kojima<sup>4</sup>, Martin P. Vacanti<sup>5</sup>, Hitoshi Niwa<sup>4</sup>, Masayuki Yamato<sup>7</sup> & Charles A. Vacanti<sup>6</sup>

Here we report a unique cellular reprogramming phenomenon, called stimulus-triggered acquisition of pluripotency (STAP), which requires neither nuclear transfer nor the introduction of transcription factors. In STAP, strong external stimuli such as a transient low-pH stressor reprogrammed mammalian somatic cells, resulting in the generation of pluripotent cells. Through real-time imaging of STAP cells differentially contribute to chimeric embryos and to offspring via germline transmission. We also demonstrate the derivation of robustly expandable pluripotent cell lines from STAP cells. Thus, our findings indicate that epigenetic fate determination of mammalian cells can be markedly converted in a context-dependent manner by strong environmental cues.

In the canonical view of Waddington's epigenetic landscape, fates of somatic cells are progressively determined as cellular differentiation proceeds, like going downhill. It is generally believed that reversal of differentiated states requires artificial physical or genetic manipulation of nuclear function such as nuclear transfer<sup>1</sup> or the introduction of multiple transcription factors<sup>2</sup>. Here we investigated the question of whether somatic cells can undergo nuclear reprogramming simply in response to external triggers without genetic manipulation. This type of situation is known to occur in plants—drastic environmental changes can convert mature somatic cells (for example, associated carrot cells) into immature blastema cells, from which a whole plant structure, including stalks and roots, develops in the presence of auxins<sup>3</sup>. A challenging question is whether animal somatic cells have a similar potential that emerges under special conditions. Over the past decade, the presence of pluripotent cells (or closely relevant cell types) in adult tissues has been a matter of debate, for which conflicting conclusions have been reported by various groups<sup>4–11</sup>. However, no study so far has proven that such pluripotent cells can arise from differentiated somatic cells.

Haematopoietic cells positive for CD45 (leukocyte common antigen) are typical lineage-committed somatic cells that never express pluripotency-related markers such as Oct4 unless they are reprogrammed<sup>12–14</sup>. We therefore addressed the question of whether splenic CD45<sup>+</sup> cells could acquire pluripotency by drastic changes in their external environment on day 7), except for CD34<sup>+</sup> haematopoietic progenitors<sup>15</sup>, which rarely produced Oct4-GFP<sup>+</sup> cells (<2% Extended Data Fig. 1d).

Among maintenance media for pluripotent cells<sup>16</sup>, the appearance of Oct4-GFP<sup>+</sup> cells was most efficient in LIF+β27 medium, and did not occur in mouse epiblast-derived stem-cell (EPSC) medium<sup>17,18</sup> or C57BL/6 mice carrying an Oct4-GFP transgene<sup>19</sup>, and were exposed to various types of strong, transient, physical and chemical stimuli (described below). We examined these cells for activation of the Oct4 promoter after culture for several days in suspension using DMEM/F12 medium supplemented with leukemia inhibitory factor (LIF) and β27 (hereafter called LIF+β27 medium). Among the various perturbations, we were particularly interested in low-pH perturbations for two reasons. First, as shown below, low-pH treatment turned out to be most effective for the induction of Oct4. Second, classical experimental embryology has shown that a transient low-pH treatment under sublethal conditions can alter the differentiation status of tissues. Spontaneous neural conversion from salamander animal caps by soaking the tissues in sorted-back acidic medium below pH 6.0 has been demonstrated previously<sup>20,21</sup>.

Without exposure to the stimuli, none of the cells co-cultured with CD45<sup>+</sup> unfractionated CD45<sup>+</sup> cells (25–50% of surviving cells on day 7), except for CD34<sup>+</sup> haematopoietic progenitors<sup>15</sup>, which rarely produced Oct4-GFP<sup>+</sup> cells (<2% Extended Data Fig. 1d).

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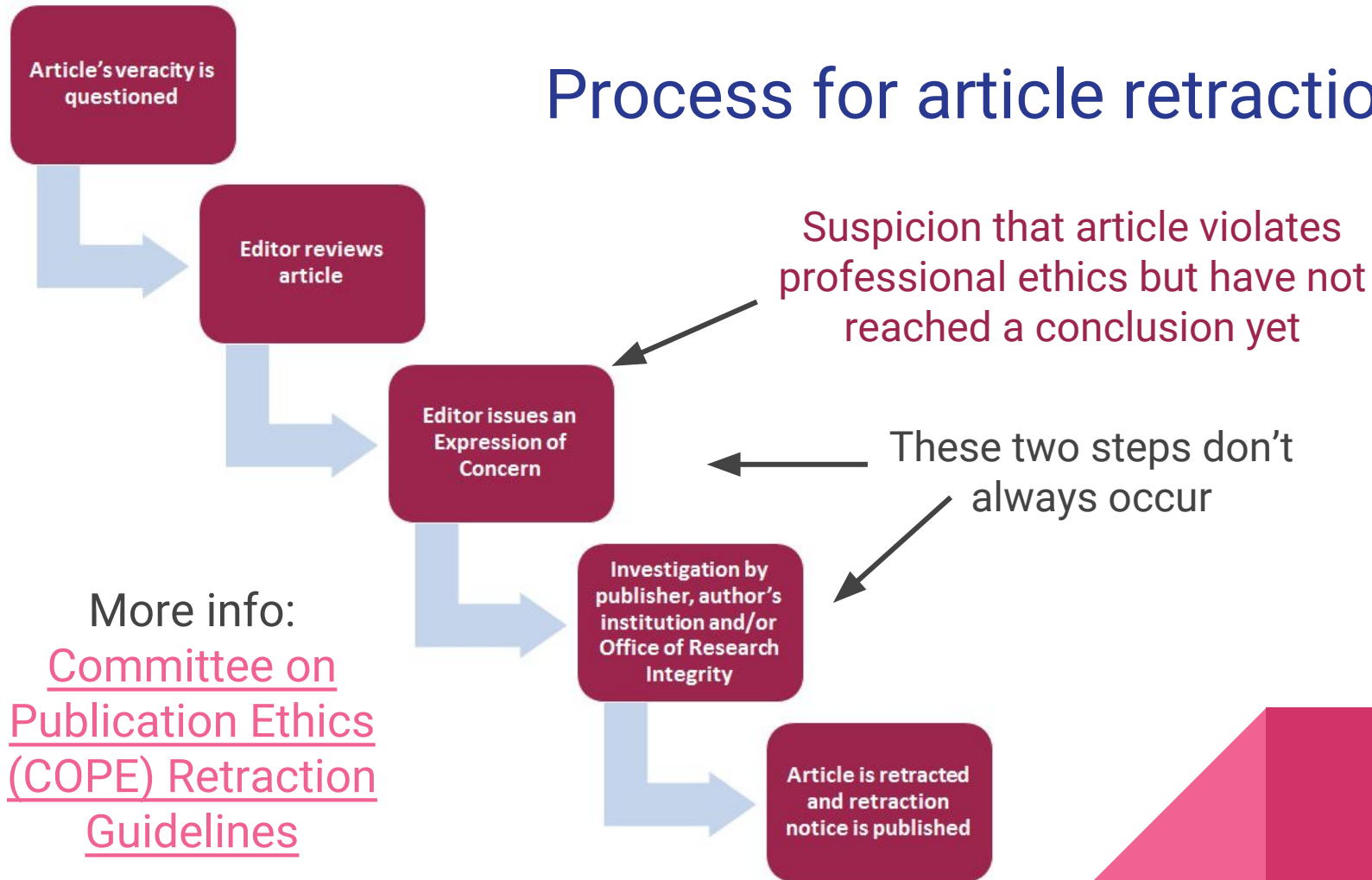
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Wakefield, Murch, et al. (1998) *The Lancet*, 351(103), 637-641; Obokata, Sasai, et al. (2014) *Nature*, 505(7485), 676-680.

# Process for article retractions





# Retracted article vs. retraction notice

**RETRACTED 28 MAY 2015;**  
**EDITORIAL EXPRESSION OF CONCERN 20 MAY 2015; SEE LAST PAGES**

**RESEARCH | REPORTS**

In addition to the C1/C2 protein (in human transferrin receptor 2) exclusively between the two viral surface glycoproteins (Fig. 2E and fig. S13), a potential signature of antagonistic pleiotropy at a largely constrained position, as observed for other host-pathogen interfaces (7). Previous work has also implicated the C2 transferin variant as a risk factor for disorders involving iron metabolism, including Alzheimer's disease; however, those associations remain controversial and appear dependent on the population tested and interactions with other susceptibility loci (28, 29). Our findings provide a functional basis for human transferrin variation and establish an important role for nutritional immunity in recent human evolution.

Although canonical innate immunity factors have been appreciated as nodes of host-virus evolution, our work demonstrates that nutritional immunity has played a fundamental role in the survival of primate populations challenged by bacterial pathogens. *H. influenzae* and *N. meningitidis* remain a major source of morbidity and mortality in regions where vaccine coverage is poor (27, 28) and drug-resistant *N. gonorrhoeae* is developing into an urgent public health threat (29). By illuminating the battle for iron as a major driving force of host-pathogen evolution, from 40 million years of primate divergence to emerging human epidemics today, our studies reveal new reservoirs of genetic resistance to infectious diseases.

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**SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS**

www.sciencemag.org/content/346/6215/1366/suppl/DC1  
Figs. S1 to S13  
Tables S1 to S18  
Movie S1  
References (30–36)  
29 July 2015; accepted 14 November 2015  
10.1126/science.1259259

**POLITICAL SCIENCE**

## When contact changes minds: An experiment on transmission of support for gay equality

Michael J. LaCour<sup>1</sup> and Donald P. Green<sup>2</sup>

Can a single conversation change minds on divisive social issues, such as same-sex marriage? A randomized placebo-controlled trial assessed whether gay (n = 22) or straight (n = 19) messengers were effective at encouraging voters (n = 972) to support same-sex marriage and whether attitude change persisted and spread to others in voters' social networks. The results, measured by an unrelated panel survey, show that both gay and straight canvassers produced large effects initially, but only gay canvassers' effects persisted in 3-week, 6-week, and 9-month follow-ups. We also find strong evidence of within-household transmission of opinion change, but only in the wake of conversations with gay canvassers. Contact with gay canvassers further caused substantial change in the ratings of gay men and lesbians more generally. These large, persistent, and contagious effects were confirmed by a follow-up experiment. Contact with minorities coupled with discussion of issues pertinent to them is capable of producing a cascade of opinion change.

**FOREMOST** among theories of prejudice reduction (1) is the contact hypothesis (2), which contends that outgroup hostility diminishes when people from different groups interact with one another. Although contact is credited with reducing prejudice toward a wide array of outgroups (3), in practice it is often difficult to facilitate intergroup contact of sufficient duration to dispel negative stereotypes and build empathy. For this reason, research attention has recently focused on alternative interventions that may be deployed in a more compressed time frame. Examples include brief personal contact with outgroup members during the course of a conversation (4) and the "extended contact" that occurs when one learns that a close friend has experienced positive contact with an outgroup (5). The question is whether brief or indirect con-

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**INSIGHTS**

## LETTERS

Edited by Jennifer Sills

### Editor's note

ON 20 MAY, in response to questions about the validity of the methods and data in the 2014 Report by M. J. LaCour and D. P. Green, *Science* published online an Editorial Expression of Concern on the Report. On 28 May, *Science* released online an Editorial Retraction of the paper. Articles first published online are typically published in print a few weeks after online posting. Because of the rapid chain of events in this case, both the Editorial Retraction and the Editorial Expression of Concern are printed here. The Editorial Retraction is *Science*'s final decision on this paper and supersedes the earlier Editorial Expression of Concern.

Marcia McNutt  
Editor-in-Chief

### Editorial retraction

SCIENCE, WITH THE CONCURRENCE OF THE EDITORIAL BOARD, HAS RETRACTED A 12 DECEMBER 2014 REPORT "When contact changes minds: An experiment on transmission of support for gay equality" by LaCour and Green (1).

The reasons for retracting the paper are as follows: (1) Survey incentives were misrepresented. To encourage participation in the survey, respondents were claimed to have been given cash payments to enroll, to refer family and friends, and to complete multiple surveys. In correspondence received from Michael J. LaCour's attorney, he confirmed that no such payments were made. (ii) The statement on sponsorship. In correspondence from LaCour's attorney, this statement was not true.

In addition to these known problems, independent researchers have noted certain statistical irregularities in the responses (2). LaCour has not produced the original survey data from which someone else could independently confirm the validity of the reported findings. Michael J. LaCour does not agree to this Retraction.

Marcia McNutt  
Editor-in-Chief



Antibiotics have been found in pork in China.

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DOI:10.1126/science.1259259

tap water supplies present multiclass antibiotic residues, including those of fluoroquinolones (broad-spectrum antibiotics whose use is discouraged except in treating serious bacterial infections). Antibiotic residues have been found in foods, including pork (2), aquatic products (3), vegetables (4), and milk (5). For instance, the Shanghai Food and Drug Administration found 7.7% of aquatic products to be unacceptable for human consumption because of antibiotic residues (6). Antibiotic residues are also found in vegetable samples, especially those grown in manure-amended soil (7). In one study, 47% of raw milk samples from 10 provinces of China were found positive for antibiotic residues (8).

At least three factors are responsible for this new antibiotic-related crisis in China. First, the country is the largest producer and consumer of antibiotics, reaching about 210,000 tons of antibiotics annually (9). Antibiotics are misused and discharged into the environment, where they pollute crop-producing soil and groundwater and rivers that are sources of drinking water, such as the Yangtze River (7). Second, an important source of antibiotics in food is antibiotic residues present in the agricultural and livestock industries (9). In China, about 97,000 tons of antibiotics (46% of all antibiotics used in the country (9)) are used in its livestock to prevent disease and improve production (8). In addition to residues present in livestock food products, misuse of antibiotics results in 29,000 to 87,000 tons of antibiotic residues annually in livestock waste, which is used as manure soil amendment for crop production, thereby causing contamination of agricultural products with antibiotics (9). Third, a main reason for this emerging crisis is the lack of effective supervision over the production, use, and disposal of antibiotics. For instance, one of

# How retracted articles are marked online varies


**Retraction of "Mechanical Reconfiguration of Stereoisomers"**

Kelly M. Wiggins, Todd W. Hudnall, Qilong Shen, Matthew J. Kryger, Jeffrey S. Moore, and Christopher W. Bielawski<sup>†</sup>

*J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 2015, 137 (9), pp 3428–3428  
 DOI: 10.1021/jacs.5b01988  
 Publication Date (Web): March 11, 2015  
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Note: In lieu of an abstract, this is the article's first page.

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**Retraction of "Mechanical Reconfiguration of Stereoisomers"**

Kelly M. Wiggins, Todd W. Hudnall, Qilong Shen, Matthew J. Kryger, Jeffrey S. Moore, and Christopher W. Bielawski<sup>†</sup>

*J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 2010, 132, 3256–3257. DOI: 10.1021/jp910716e

Based on an investigation conducted by The Office of Research Integrity at The University of Texas at Austin, it was determined that the data and scientific conclusions of this article are unreliable as a result of scientific misconduct by one of the co-authors affiliated with The University at the time of its publication. The authors retract this article accordingly.

The original paper was published February 18, 2010 (*J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 2010, 132, 3256–3257; DOI: 10.1021/jp910716e), and retracted March 11, 2015.

**Mechanical Reconfiguration of Stereoisomers**

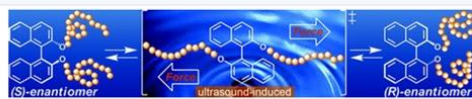
Kelly M. Wiggins<sup>†</sup>, Todd W. Hudnall<sup>‡</sup>, Qilong Shen<sup>‡</sup>, Matthew J. Kryger<sup>‡</sup>, Jeffrey S. Moore<sup>‡</sup>, and Christopher W. Bielawski<sup>†\*</sup>

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 Publication Date (Web): February 18, 2010  
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 bielawski@cm.utexas.edu, <sup>†</sup>University of Texas at Austin., <sup>‡</sup>University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

**Withdrawn**  
 This paper was withdrawn on March 11, 2015 (*J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 2015, 137, DOI: 10.1021/jacs.5b01988).

**Abstract**



Poly(methyl acrylate) of varying molecular weight was grown from the enantiopure ditopic initiator (R)- or (S)-1,1'-binaphthyl-2,2'-bis-(2-bromoisobutyrate). Subjecting CH<sub>3</sub>CN solutions of high-



This paper was retracted on March 11, 2015 (*J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 2015, 137, DOI: 10.1021/jacs.5b01988).

**Mechanical Reconfiguration of Stereoisomers**

Kelly M. Wiggins,<sup>†</sup> Todd W. Hudnall,<sup>‡</sup> Qilong Shen,<sup>‡</sup> Matthew J. Kryger,<sup>‡</sup> Jeffrey S. Moore,<sup>‡</sup> and Christopher W. Bielawski<sup>†\*</sup>

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Asymmetric are chiral molecules whose asymmetric structures are derived from biological sources such as naturally occurring amino acids.<sup>1</sup> They have found utility in a broad range of applications, including asymmetric synthesis and catalysis, supramolecular and polymer chemistry, and chemical sensors.<sup>2</sup> Certain asymmetric molecules, such as 1,1'-binaphthyl-2,2'-bis(2-bromoisobutyrate)-1,1'-binaphthyl (bimbi),<sup>3</sup> and their derivatives, have isomerization barriers that typically exceed 30 kcal mol<sup>-1</sup> and therefore do not readily undergo thermal equilibration.<sup>4–7</sup> Although these high energy barriers facilitate chiral resolution, asymmetric synthesis are currently required to access enantiopure forms of these molecules in the most efficient manner.<sup>8</sup> In view of the recent advances in mechanochemistry,<sup>9</sup> in which known or concealed reaction pathways may be activated or even found to proceed in atypical directions,<sup>10</sup> we demonstrate here that thermally resistant isomerization barriers can be surmounted by force. The resulting force is a new method for reconfiguring stereoisomers.

As shown in Scheme 1, we reasoned that glass microfibers could be accessed by applying a tensile force to bond structures coated with polymer chains of sufficient molecular weight, ultimately converting one enantiomer to the other. To test this hypothesis, polystyrene-coated optical fibers (POF) were grown from the bifunctional initiator (S)-1'-binaphthyl-2,2'-bis(2-bromoisobutyrate) (S)-bimbi using C-methyl-2-bromoethylammonium bromide (CMB) as the initiator. The resulting polymer (S)-bimbi exhibited a molecular weight (MW) of 14.5 kDa and a polydispersity index (PDI) of 1.05, as determined by gel permeation chromatography (GPC).<sup>11</sup> Upon the optical force of the filament was observed using circular dichroism (CD) and X-ray spectroscopy (XRD). The stress in the filament was calculated using the force applied to the filament in CH<sub>3</sub>CN (0.2 mg/mL) and the optical force applied to the filament.<sup>12</sup> In a similar fashion, the optical force was applied to the filament in CH<sub>3</sub>CN (0.2 mg/mL) and the optical force applied to the filament. Comparison of the intensity of the signal revealed a 100% increase in the intensity of the signal of the filament. The optical force of the filament was calculated using the force applied to the filament in CH<sub>3</sub>CN (0.2 mg/mL) and the optical force applied to the filament. The optical force of the filament was calculated using the force applied to the filament in CH<sub>3</sub>CN (0.2 mg/mL) and the optical force applied to the filament.

Sample	MW (kDa)	PDI	MW (kDa)	PDI
(S)-bimbi	14.5	1.05	14.5	1.05
(R)-bimbi	14.5	1.05	14.5	1.05
(S)-bimbi	14.5	1.05	14.5	1.05
(R)-bimbi	14.5	1.05	14.5	1.05

<sup>a</sup> All of the samples were dissolved in CH<sub>3</sub>CN (0.15 mg/mL) and analyzed by GPC. The PDI values were determined by GPC. The optical force was calculated using the force applied to the filament in CH<sub>3</sub>CN (0.2 mg/mL) and the optical force applied to the filament. The optical force of the filament was calculated using the force applied to the filament in CH<sub>3</sub>CN (0.2 mg/mL) and the optical force applied to the filament.

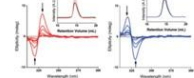


Figure 1. CD spectra of CH<sub>3</sub>CN solutions of (S)-bimbi and (R)-bimbi. The x-axis is wavelength (nm) and the y-axis is molar ellipticity [theta] (deg cm<sup>2</sup> dmol<sup>-1</sup>). The (S)-bimbi curve (red) shows a positive peak at 225 nm and a negative peak at 235 nm. The (R)-bimbi curve (blue) shows a negative peak at 225 nm and a positive peak at 235 nm.

Retraction notice

Article record on journal's website

Full text of retracted article



**Now it's your  
turn!**



What are some  
reasons you  
think would  
cause an article  
to be retracted?



# Top 5 'Hall of Shame' Retracted Articles

# 5. Can't contact author who collected the data

Article

**RETRACTED: Effects of Violent Media on Verbal Task Performance in Gifted and General Cohort Children**

Gifted Child Quarterly  
2016, Vol. 60(4), 279–286  
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DOI: 10.1177/0014992116640382  
gq.sagepub.com  
SAGE

Yakup Çetin<sup>1</sup>, Jonathan Wai<sup>2</sup>, Cengiz Altay<sup>1</sup>, and Brad J. Bushman<sup>3,4</sup>

**Abstract**  
Violent media immediately grab our attention. However, violent media also detract attention from other cues. A large body of research shows that violent media impair attention and memory, critical resources for academic performance, such as verbal tasks at school. The present study tested whether gifted children are more impervious to these violent media effects. Gifted ( $n = 74$ ) and general cohort ( $n = 80$ ) 10-year-old children were randomly assigned to watch a 12-minute violent or nonviolent cartoon. A verbal task was completed before and after the video. Results showed that gifted children outperformed general cohort children on the verbal task after watching a nonviolent cartoon, but not after watching a violent cartoon. Thus, the violent video eliminated the typical advantage gifted children have on verbal tasks. These findings suggest that the harmful effects of violent media on verbal tasks are greater for gifted children than for general cohort children.

**Keywords**  
violent media, giftedness, IQ, sensitivity, verbal task performance

Children will watch anything, and when a broadcaster uses crime and violence and other shoddy devices to monopolize a child's attention, it's worse than taking candy from a baby. . . . taking precious time from the process of growing up.  
—Newton Minow (Federal Communications Commission, To Senate Subcommittee on Television, June 19, 1961)

Violence in the media is not used to grab our attention. In the news today, a common phrase is “If it bleeds, it leads.” That is, violent, gore news stories often become the leading news stories. It makes good theoretical sense that violence grabs our attention. Evolutionary theory proposes that people are “hardwired” to be sensitive to violence because they are associated with survival (Le Douarin & Paus, 2008). A by-product of evolutionary attention bias is that violent cues are emotionally arousing (Neuberg, Kenrick, & Schaller, 2010).

However, violent cues not only grab our attention, they divert attention away from other cues. Neuroscience research suggests that violent cues have attentional priority because of their arousal capacity (for a review, see Lull & Bushman, 2015). The cues directly responsible for emotional arousal benefit from enhanced attention, whereas the cues not responsible for emotional arousal suffer from impaired attention (Mandler, 2014). In other words, violent cues are processed as central cues, whereas surrounding cues are processed as peripheral cues. Peripheral cues are less likely to be attended to and remembered than are central cues (e.g., Echterhoff & Wolf, 2012; Yeary, Oudega, & van den Broek, 2016).

Attention and memory are required to perform many tasks, perhaps especially at school. A large body of research shows violent media impair attention and memory. For example, a recent meta-analytic review showed violent media impair memory for advertisements (Lull & Bushman, 2015). Previous research has also shown that violent media impair learning foreign languages (Lull, Çetin, & Bushman, 2015) and impair school performance (Çetin, Lull, Çelikbas, & Bushman, 2015). The present research was designed to replicate and extend these findings by testing whether violent media also impair verbal task performance and the potential moderating role of giftedness on the effects.

*Is Giftedness a Protective Factor, Vulnerability Factor, or Unimportant Factor for Violent Media Effects on Verbal Task Performance?*

Gifted children may differ in important ways from their same age peers, perhaps being more immune or more vulnerable to

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<sup>4</sup>VU University Amsterdam, Amsterdam, Netherlands

**Corresponding Author:**  
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3016 Derby Hall, 154 North Oval Mall, Columbus, OH 43210, USA.  
Email: bushman.20@osu.edu

Retraction notice: “Unfortunately, the data collection procedures could not be verified because the author who collected the data (Cengiz Altay) could not be contacted following the attempted coup in Turkey.”

## 4. Professor plagiarizes his student's thesis

- **Professional organization's report:** Professor "failed to acknowledge the contribution of [co-author and student] to the submitted academic paper."
- **Professor's defense:** I wrote part of the student's thesis



The screenshot shows the journal page for 'Environmental Geotechnics'. The article title is 'Withdrawn: Study on large strain consolidation of mine waste tailings'. The authors listed are 'Shahid Azam, PhD, PEng, ,'. The article was published online on May 25, 2015, with a DOI of 10.1680/envgeo.13.00008. A red arrow points to the abstract section, which contains the text: 'This paper was removed due to copyright reasons.'

Environmental Geotechnics  
E-ISSN 2051-803X  
Volume 1 Issue 1, February 2014, pp. 48-55 [< Prev](#) [Next >](#)

**Withdrawn: Study on large strain consolidation of mine waste tailings**

Authors: [Shahid Azam, PhD, PEng, ,](#)

[Author Affiliations](#) [▼](#)

Published Online: May 25, 2015  
DOI: 10.1680/envgeo.13.00008

Key: [OA](#) Open access content [S](#) Subscribed content [F](#) Free content [T](#) Trial content

**Abstract**

This paper was removed due to copyright reasons.

Azam. (2014) *Environmental Geotechnics*, 1(1), 48-55.

News article: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/u-of-r-engineering-professor-found-guilty-of-plagiarizing-student-s-work-1.4033447>

# 3. First author fabricated data from 900+ patients

- First author “faked everything: names, diagnosis, gender, weight, age, drug use.”
- All co-authors were completely unaware
- Ultimately, first author had several articles retracted and his doctorate in medicine revoked

## Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs and the risk of oral cancer: a nested case-control study

J Sudbo, J Lee, S M Lippman, M Mark, S Sagen, N Flotzer, A Rissimäki, A Sudbo, L Mao, X Zhou, W Khalid, J F Ewensen, A Keith, A J Dunnington

### Summary

**Background** Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) prevent several types of cancer, but could increase the risk of cardiovascular complications. We investigated whether use of NSAIDs was associated with a change in the incidence of oral cancer or overall or cardiovascular mortality.

**Methods** We undertook a nested case-control study to analyse data from a population-based database (Health Surveys of Norway; CONOR), which consisted of prospectively obtained health data from all registered residents of Norway. Oral cancer was identified from the 9241 individuals in CONOR who were at increased risk of oral cancer because of heavy smoking ( $\geq 15$  pack-years), and matched controls were selected from the remaining heavy smokers (1500) who did not have cancer.

**Findings** We identified and analysed 454 (5%) people with oral cancer (222 (2%) men and 232 (3%) women; mean [SD] age at diagnosis 63.3 (13.2) years) and 454 matched controls (n=908); 263 (2%) had used NSAIDs, 19 (9%) had used paracetamol (for a minimum of 6 months), and 562 (62%) had used neither drug. NSAID use (but not paracetamol use) was associated with a reduced risk of oral cancer (including in heavy smokers) (odds ratio 0.47, 95% CI 0.37–0.60,  $p < 0.0001$ ). Smoking cessation also lowered the risk of oral cancer (OR 0.22–0.52,  $p < 0.0001$ ). Additionally, long-term use of NSAIDs (but not paracetamol) was associated with a decreased risk of cardiovascular-disseminated death (2.06, 1.34–3.18,  $p = 0.001$ ). NSAID use did not significantly reduce overall mortality ( $p = 0.17$ ).

**Interpretation** Long-term use of NSAIDs is associated with a reduced incidence of oral cancer (including in active smokers), but also with an increased risk of death from cardiovascular disease. These findings highlight the need for a careful risk-benefit analysis when the long-term use of NSAIDs is considered.

### Introduction

Squamous cell carcinoma of the oral cavity is associated with severe disease-related and treatment-related morbidity and a poor prognosis that is not improved greatly over the past three decades.<sup>1,2</sup> Tobacco smoking is the major cause of this disease.<sup>3</sup> Patients with oral leucoplakia with the presence of an unstable marker antigen have an 80% risk of developing cancer<sup>4</sup> with a high relapse rate and a 70% mortality in 5 years.<sup>5</sup> Complete surgical excision can reduce the high risk of aggressive oral cancer associated with aneuploid oral leucoplakia.<sup>6</sup> Smoking cessation could offer some protection, but this is often difficult to achieve or sustain.<sup>7</sup> Therefore, there is an unmet medical need for new treatment strategies, such as chemoprevention with non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), to reduce the risks of cancer in patients with aneuploid oral leucoplakia.<sup>8–11</sup>

NSAIDs inhibit cyclooxygenase (COX) activity and thereby suppress the synthesis of prostaglandin E<sub>2</sub>. Raised concentrations of prostaglandin E<sub>2</sub> have been detected in both premalignant and malignant lesions, including squamous cell carcinoma of the oral cavity.<sup>12</sup> This increase results from the overexpression of COX-2, the inducible form of COX.<sup>13</sup> Several lines of evidence, beyond the finding of raised amounts of prostaglandin E<sub>2</sub> in tumours, suggest that COX enzymes contribute to the development of oral cancer. COX can convert polycyclic

aromatic hydrocarbons in tobacco smoke to reactive metabolites, which form mutagenic DNA adducts.<sup>14</sup> Prostaglandin E<sub>2</sub> can stimulate cell proliferation and angiogenesis and inhibit apoptosis and immune surveillance.<sup>15,16</sup> NSAIDs protect against the development of oral cancer in animals.<sup>17,18</sup> Observational data have indicated that NSAIDs are associated with the reduced risk of several types of cancer,<sup>19–23</sup> but we know of only two previously published reports of epidemiological studies of NSAIDs with respect to head and neck cancer.<sup>24,25</sup> These reports only included aspirin and showed conflicting results. Before undertaking a trial to investigate NSAIDs in reducing the risk of oral cancer in the very high-risk group of patients with aneuploid leucoplakia, we did a population-based study to examine the potential association between long-term NSAID use and the risk of oral cancer in current and previously heavy smokers. We also examined the potential associations of overall and cardiovascular mortality with NSAID use.

### Methods

**Risk identification in population-based health-survey database**

We did a nested case-control study within the population-based Cohort of Norway (CONOR), which prospectively obtains data for the Norwegian Health Survey from three longitudinal health surveys covering all geographical regions of Norway (Health Surveys of

Lancet 2005; 366: 1359–66  
Published Online 2005  
DOI: 10.1016/S0140-6736(05)27010-0

Department of Medical Oncology and Hematology, The Norwegian Radium Hospital, Montebello, 0310 Oslo, Norway (J Sudbo, M Mark); Department of Biostatistics and Applied Mathematics, University of Texas, MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX, USA (Prof J Lee, PhD, X Zhou, MD); Department of Thoracic and Head-Neck Medical Oncology (Prof S M Lippman, MD), Paul S. Minicoff and Department of Clinical Cancer Prevention (Prof S M Lippman), University of Texas, MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX, USA; The National Hospital and The Norwegian Cancer Registry, Oslo, Norway (J Flotzer, MD);

Research Foundation of The Norwegian Radium Hospital, Montebello, Norway (S Sagen, MSc); Division of Cytology, Department of Pathology, The Norwegian Radium Hospital, Montebello, Norway (Dr A Rissimäki, MD); Department of Pathology, Helsinki University of Medical Informatics, The Finnish Radium Hospital, Montebello, Oslo, Norway (Dr W Khalid, MD); Department of Pathology, Helsinki University Central Hospital, and Molecular and Cancer Biology Research Programme, Biomedicum Helsinki, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland (Dr A Keith, MD); Department of Physics, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, Norway (Prof A J Dunnington, MD);

Department of Medical Oncology and Radiotherapy, The Norwegian Radium Hospital, Montebello, Norway (Dr J F Ewensen, MD); and Department of Medicine, Weill Medical College of Cornell University, New York, NY, USA (Prof A J Dunnington, MD)

Correspondence to: Dr J Sudbo (j.sudbo@rhd.uio.no)

See <http://www.thelancet.com>

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0140-6736/05/\$30.00

DOI: 10.1016/S0140-6736(05)27010-0

ISSN 0140-6736

0140-6736/05/\$30.00

See <http://www.thelancet.com>

Sudbo, Lee, et al. (2005) *The Lancet*, 366(9494), 1359-1366

News article: <http://www.the-scientist.com/?articles.view/articleNo/23607/title/Lancet-study-faked/>

## 2. Article contains personally identifiable info

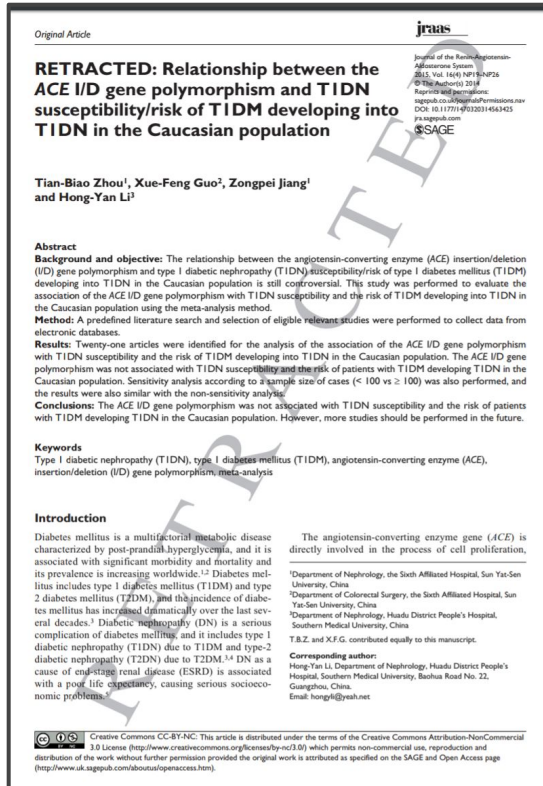


The screenshot shows a retraction notice on the British Journal of Psychotherapy (BJP) website. The page header includes the journal title and a tagline: "From Freud's legacy to psychoanalytic and Jungian practice today". The main heading of the notice is "RETRACTION: Mitrani, J., On Separating One from the Other: Images of a Developing Self". Below this, it states the article was first published on 21 November 2016 and provides the DOI: 10.1111/bjp.12278. The notice also mentions that the article corrects a previous issue (Volume 32, Issue 3, 321-337) and that the article was first published online on 15 July 2016. The abstract section explains that the article has been withdrawn due to concerns about sensitive clinical material regarding a patient's privacy. A reference is provided at the bottom: Mitrani, J. (2016) On separating one from the other: Images of a developing self. *British Journal of Psychotherapy* 32(3). DOI: 10.1111/bjp.12227.

Retraction notice: “...certain sensitive clinical material regarding the patient discussed in the article may **inadvertently result in the compromise of the patient's privacy.**”



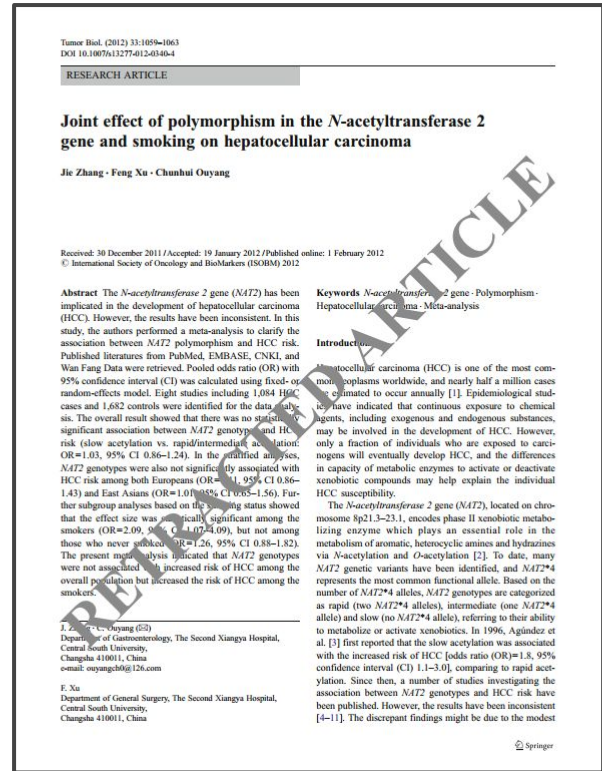
# 1. Fake reviewer contact information



- Retraction notice: “submitting authors... had supplied fabricated contact details for their nominated reviewers”
- Total of 6 articles were retracted

# And it gets worse....

- Fake reviewer contact info. caused **107** articles to be retracted in *Tumor Biology* (April 2017)
- In the past year, this journal has **retracted a total of 132 articles**
- An estimated **15%** of all article retractions between 2012-15 were caused by fake peer reviews



The top right corner of the slide features a decorative arrangement of overlapping geometric shapes, including triangles and squares, in various shades of pink and magenta.

Additional interesting  
information about retracted  
articles

# Other types of notifications

- **Correction:** *small* part of article is flawed, usually due to author error
  - Also called Corrigendum
  - Example: Small numerical error in table
- **Erratum:** production error (publisher error)
  - Example: Author's name is misspelled
- **Removal:** legal reasons for removal

**JOURNAL OF Applied Polymer SCIENCE** CORRIGENDUM

**Corrigendum: A new biobased plasticizer for poly(vinyl chloride) based on epoxidized cottonseed oil**

Alfredo Carbonell-Verdu, David Garcia-Sanoguera, Amparo Jorda-Vilaplana, Lourdes Sanchez-Nacher, Rafael Balart

Published online 23 December 2016  
DOI: 10.1002/app.44746

[Article in *J. Appl. Polym. Sci.* 2016, 134, DOI: 10.1002/app.44438]

The published article cited above contains an error in column four of Table II.  
Currently reads:

**Table II.** Thickness and Mechanical Properties of Starch Control and Nanocomposite Films

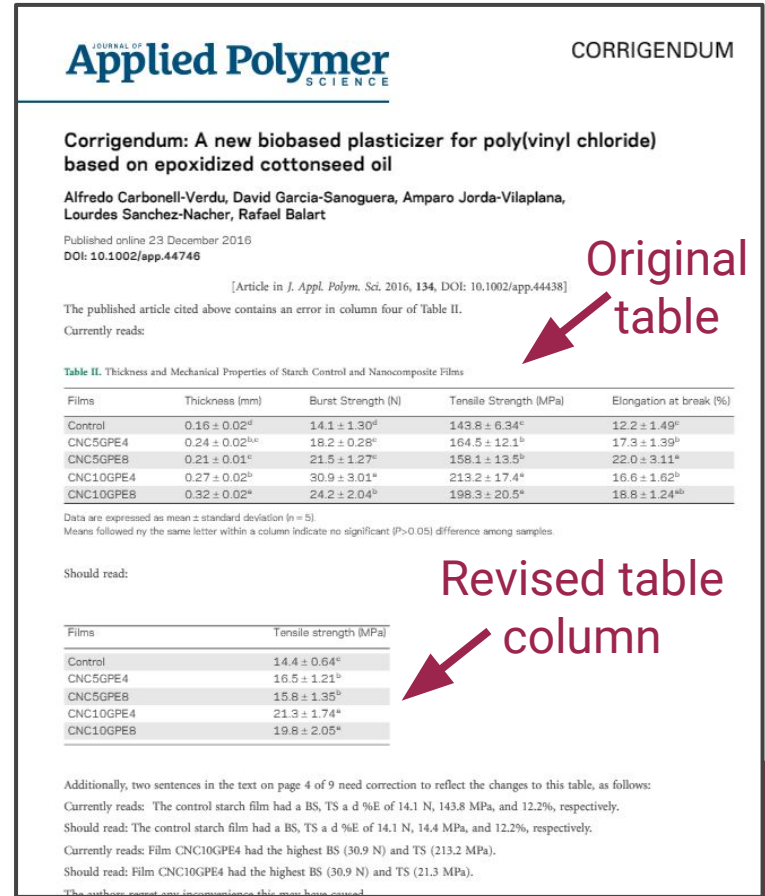
Films	Thickness (mm)	Burst Strength (N)	Tensile Strength (MPa)	Elongation at break (%)
Control	0.16 ± 0.02 <sup>cd</sup>	14.1 ± 1.30 <sup>d</sup>	143.8 ± 6.34 <sup>c</sup>	12.2 ± 1.49 <sup>e</sup>
CNC5GPE4	0.24 ± 0.02 <sup>bc</sup>	18.2 ± 0.28 <sup>c</sup>	164.5 ± 12.1 <sup>b</sup>	17.3 ± 1.39 <sup>d</sup>
CNC5GPE8	0.21 ± 0.01 <sup>c</sup>	21.5 ± 1.27 <sup>c</sup>	158.1 ± 13.5 <sup>b</sup>	22.0 ± 3.11 <sup>a</sup>
CNC10GPE4	0.27 ± 0.02 <sup>b</sup>	30.9 ± 3.01 <sup>a</sup>	213.2 ± 17.4 <sup>a</sup>	16.6 ± 1.62 <sup>b</sup>
CNC10GPE8	0.32 ± 0.02 <sup>a</sup>	24.2 ± 2.04 <sup>b</sup>	198.3 ± 20.5 <sup>a</sup>	18.8 ± 1.24 <sup>cd</sup>

Data are expressed as mean ± standard deviation (n = 5).  
Means followed by the same letter within a column indicate no significant (P > 0.05) difference among samples.

Should read:

Films	Tensile strength (MPa)
Control	14.4 ± 0.64 <sup>c</sup>
CNC5GPE4	16.5 ± 1.21 <sup>b</sup>
CNC5GPE8	15.8 ± 1.35 <sup>b</sup>
CNC10GPE4	21.3 ± 1.74 <sup>a</sup>
CNC10GPE8	19.8 ± 2.05 <sup>a</sup>

Additionally, two sentences in the text on page 4 of 9 need correction to reflect the changes to this table, as follows:  
Currently reads: The control starch film had a BS, TS a d %E of 14.1 N, 143.8 MPa, and 12.2%, respectively.  
Should read: The control starch film had a BS, TS a d %E of 14.1 N, 14.4 MPa, and 12.2%, respectively.  
Currently reads: Film CNC10GPE4 had the highest BS (30.9 N) and TS (213.2 MPa).  
Should read: Film CNC10GPE4 had the highest BS (30.9 N) and TS (21.3 MPa).  
*The authors regret any inconvenience this may have caused.*



Original table

Revised table column

# Journals with higher impact factors (IF) have higher numbers of retracted articles

## Why?

1. Articles published in these journals receive **more scrutiny**
2. High IF journals are more likely to have **clear policies about misconduct**
3. Publishing in a higher IF journal provides **more incentives** to 'cut corners'

# The social sciences are not immune to article retractions

## Diederick Stapel

- Dutch social psychologist
- Fabricated data throughout research career
- Co-authors unaware of misconduct
- 50+ articles retracted and surrendered his doctorate





# The humanities are not immune to article retractions

## Mustapha Marrouchi

- English literature professor
- 20+ articles retracted due to significant plagiarism
- Fired from University of Nevada - Las Vegas



# Each publisher/journal has different retraction policies and procedures

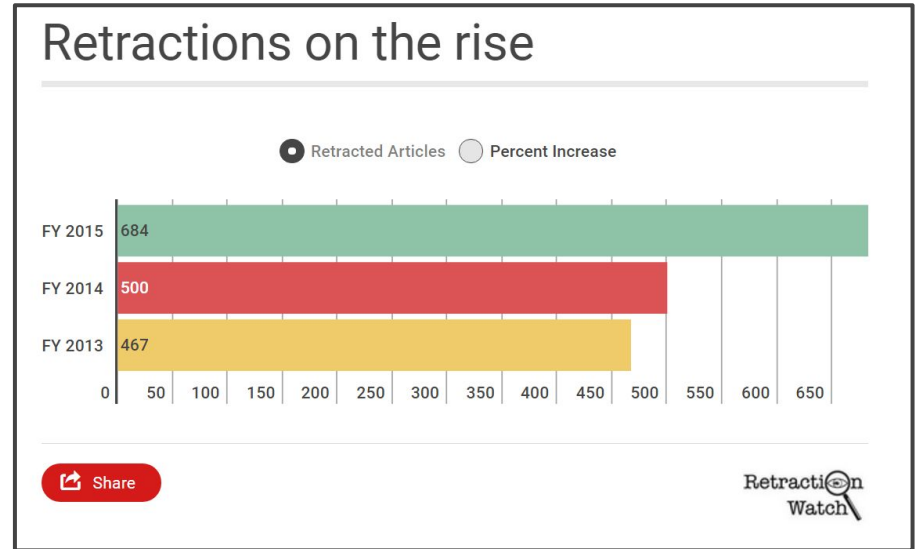
Publisher policies:

- [Elsevier](#)
- [Wiley](#)
- [Springer](#)
- [Taylor & Francis](#)



# Article retractions are on the rise but still relatively rare

- ~ 2 million articles published annually
- At least 1 article retracted every day
- Estimate: > 0.1% of articles are retracted every year



Data from: [MEDLINE Key Indicators](#)



# Search Strategies to Find Retracted Articles

# Web of Science

- Title
  - “retraction of” → to find retraction notices
  - “retracted article”
  - “expression of concern”
- Document Type
  - Correction
  - Correction, Addition



WEB OF SCIENCE™

Search Web of Science™ Core Collection

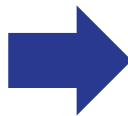
Basic Search

Chronology  
Correction  
Correction, Addition  
Dance Performance Review

Document Type

AND "retraction of" Title Search

+ Add Another Field | Reset Form



WEB OF SCIENCE™

THOMSON REUTERS

My Tools Search History Marked List

Results: 4,273 (from Web of Science Core Collection)

You searched for: DOCUMENT TYPE

Sort by: Publication Date – newest to oldest

1. Experimental orthotopic transplantation of a tissue-engineered oesophagus in rats (Retraction of vol 5, 3562, 2016)

2. Performance analysis of an energy-efficient variable supply pressure electro-hydraulic motion control system (Retraction of vol 48, pg 10, 2016)

3. Comparison of esophageal placement of Bravo capsule system under direct endoscopic guidance with conventional placement method. (Retraction of vol 3, pg 147, 2016)

4. Synthesis of silver nanoparticles using A. Indicum leaf extract and their antibacterial activity (Retraction of vol 134C, pg 34, 2014)

Web of Science Categories

Document Types

WEB OF SCIENCE™

Search Web of Science™ Core Collection

Basic Search

"retracted article" Title Search

+ Add Another Field | Reset Form



WEB OF SCIENCE™

THOMSON REUTERS

My Tools Search History Marked List

Results: 3,931 (from Web of Science Core Collection)

You searched for: RETRACTED ARTICLE

Sort by: Publication Date – newest to oldest

1. Hydrologic evaluation on the ERA-Interim output using observed river discharge data (Retracted Article)

2. Field measurements and neural network modeling of water quality parameters (Retracted Article) (Retraction of 2017)

3. Fabrication of Carbohydrate-Conjugated Fingerprintrikka Mesoporous Silica Net for the Targeted Capture of Bacteria (Retracted Article). See vol. 9, pg. 5671, 2017


4. Posterior fossa syndrome-a narrative review (Retracted article). See vol. 7, pg. 169, 2017

Web of Science Categories

Document Types



# PubMed

- Advanced Search: Publication Type
    - Retracted publication
    - Retraction of publication
  - Basic Search
    - “retracted article”
    - “expression of concern”
  - [National Library of Medicine policy](#) on how it marks article retractions, corrections, etc.
- 

# PubMed

PubMed Advanced Search Builder

Search query:

Edit Clear

Builder

Publication Type  Hide index list

- research support, non u s gov't (6538046)
- research support, u s gov't, non p h s (746460)
- research support, u s gov't, p h s (2349572)
- research support, u s government (2764928)
- retracted publication (5007)**
- retraction of publication (5247)
- review (2240084)
- scientific integrity review (227)
- study characteristics (4556930)
- support of research (8044776)

Previous 200  
Next 200  
Refresh index

AND  Show index list

or

NCBI Resources How To Sign In to NCBI

PubMed "expression of concern"  Help

Create RSS Create alert Advanced

Article types: Clinical Trial, Review, Customize ...

Text availability: Abstract, Free full text, Full text

PubMed Commons, Reader comments, Trending articles

Publication dates: 5 years, 10 years, Custom range...

Species: Humans, Other Animals

Clear all, Show additional filters

Format: Summary - Sort by: Most Recent - Per page: 20 - Send to - Filters: Manage Filters

**Search Tip**  
Sort by **Best Match** to display results from highest to lowest relevance to your search terms. [Try it Now](#)

**Search results**  
Items: 1 to 20 of 226

1. **Expression of concern** Genetically modified soya bean in rabbit feeding: detection of DNA fragments and evaluation of metabolic effects by enzymatic analysis - **EXPRESSION OF CONCERN (UPDATE)**  
Tufisico R, Lombardi P, Bovera F, d'Angelo D, Cutrignelli MI, Mastellone V, Terzi V, Avallone L, Infascelli F.  
Animal. 2017 Apr 17:1. doi: 10.1017/S175173111700091X. [Epub ahead of print] No abstract available.  
PMID: 28412888  
Similar articles

2. **Expression of concern** Aza-Morita-Bavlis-Hillman reactions catalyzed by a cyclopropenylidene.  
Hughes P.  
Chem Commun (Camb). 2017 Apr 21:53(31):4402. doi: 10.1039/c7cc01333. Epub 2017 Apr 6.  
PMID: 28382382  
Similar articles

3. **Editorial Expression of Concern** -<Parkin</> a gene implicated in autosomal recessive juvenile parkinsonism is a candidate tumor suppressor gene on chromosome 6q25-q27.  
[No authors listed]  
Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A. 2017 Apr 18;114(16):E3364. doi: 10.1073/pnas.1704295114. Epub 2017 Apr 3. No abstract available.  
PMID: 28373549 **Free PMC Article**  
Similar articles

Titles with your search terms  
Five-Year Follow-Up of High-Risk Infants with Family History of Juvenile Gastrointestinal Nutri...  
See more...

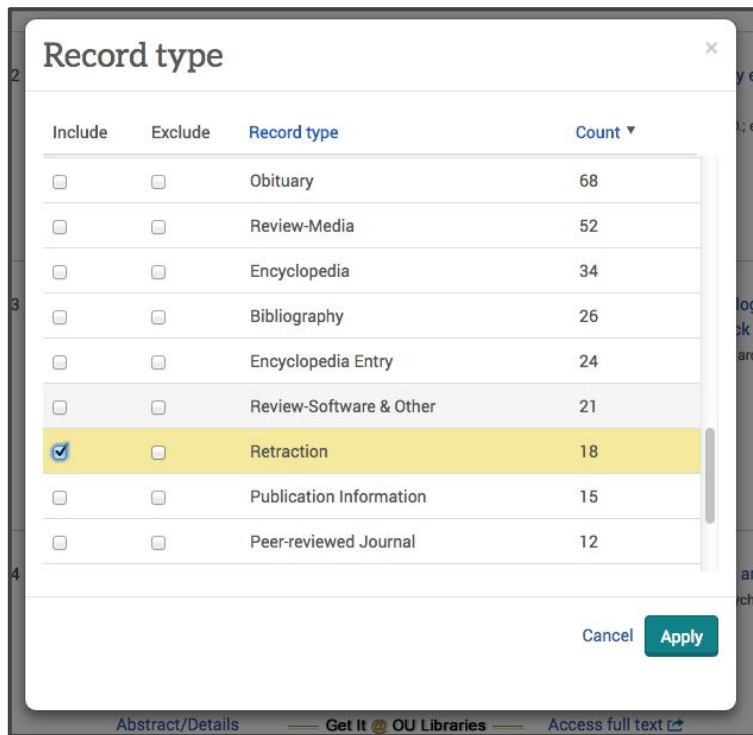
Find related data  
Database: Select  
Find items

Search details  
"expression of concern"[All Fields]  
Search  
See more...

Recent Activity  
Turn Off Clear  
"expression of concern" (226)  
PubMed  
("retracted publication"[Publication Type] OR "retraction of publ... (10213)  
PubMed  
See more...



# PsycINFO

## Post Search Limit

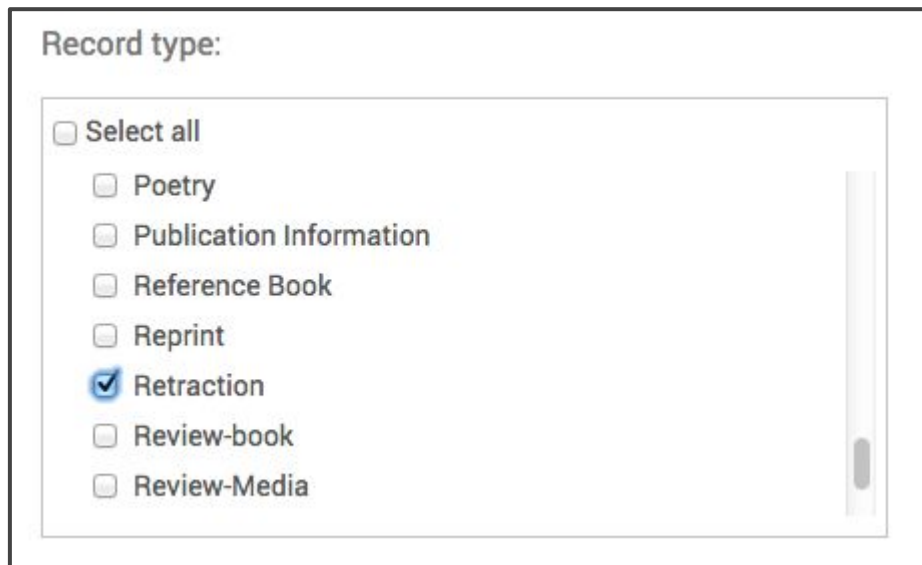


The screenshot shows a 'Record type' dialog box with a table of record types. The 'Retraction' row is highlighted in yellow and has a checked checkbox in the 'Include' column. At the bottom, there are 'Cancel' and 'Apply' buttons.

Include	Exclude	Record type	Count
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Obituary	68
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Review-Media	52
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Encyclopedia	34
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bibliography	26
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Encyclopedia Entry	24
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Review-Software & Other	21
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Retraction	18
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Publication Information	15
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Peer-reviewed Journal	12

Abstract/Details — Get It  OU Libraries — Access full text 

## Pre-Search Limit



The screenshot shows a 'Record type' dialog box with a list of record types. The 'Retraction' option is selected with a checked checkbox. At the bottom, there are 'Cancel' and 'Apply' buttons.

- Select all
  - Poetry
  - Publication Information
  - Reference Book
  - Reprint
  - Retraction
  - Review-book
  - Review-Media

Cancel Apply

# Google Scholar

The screenshot shows a Google Scholar search for "cancer retraction" with approximately 143,000 results. Three articles are listed, each with a retraction notice:

- Articles**  
**Breast retraction** assessment: an objective evaluation of cosmetic results of patients treated conservatively for breast cancer  
RD Pezner, MP Patterson, LR Hill, N Vora... - International Journal of ..., 1985 - Elsevier  
Abstract Breast **Retraction** Assessment (BRA) is an objective evaluation of the amount of cosmetic **retraction** of the treated breast in comparison to the untreated breast in patients who receive conservative treatment for breast **cancer**. A clear acrylic sheet supported  
Cited by 140 Related articles All 8 versions Web of Science: 107 Cite Save
- Any time**  
Since 2017  
Since 2016  
Since 2013  
Custom range...  
**Retraction: Spontaneous human adult stem cell transformation**  
R De la Fuente, A Bernad, J Garcia-Castro, MC Martin... - Cancer Res, 2010 - AACR  
The authors retract the article titled "Spontaneous Human Adult Stem Cell Transformation," which was published in the April 15, 2005, issue of **Cancer Research** (1). Upon review of the data published in this article, the authors have been unable to reproduce some of the  
Cited by 84 Related articles All 5 versions Web of Science: 48 Cite Save More
- Sort by relevance**  
Sort by date  
 include patents  
 include citations  
 Create alert  
**RETRACTION: 5-aza-Cytidine Is a Potent Inhibitor of DNA Methyltransferase 3a and Induces Apoptosis in HCT-116 Colon Cancer Cells via Gadd45-and p53- ...**  
R Schneider-Stock, M Diab-Assef, A Rohrbeck... - ... of Pharmacology and ..., 2005 - ASPET  
Abstract Methyltransferase inhibitors commonly used in clinical trials promote tumor cell death, but their detailed cytotoxic action is not yet fully understood. A deeper knowledge about their apoptosis-inducing mechanisms and their interaction with DNA  
Cited by 120 Related articles All 7 versions Web of Science: 77 Cite Save
- RETRACTION: Erlotinib, an Effective Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitor, Induces p27KIP1 Up-Regulation and Nuclear Translocation in ...**  
YH Ling, T Li, Z Yuan, M Haigentz, TK Weber... - Molecular ..., 2007 - ASPET  
Abstract Erlotinib, a small-molecule epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) tyrosine kinase inhibitor, has been shown to have potent antitumor effects against human non-small-cell lung **cancer** (NSCLC) cell growth; however, the mechanism of such an effect is not  
Cited by 78 Related articles All 8 versions Cite Save

No big secret.  
Just add  
“retracted” or  
“retraction” to your  
search

# Retraction Watch (retractionwatch.com)

- Independent blog started by two medical journal journalists
  - “Tracking retractions and related issues in scholarly publications”
- Analysis, commentary, etc.
  - Updated daily
  - Great links to other resources!
- Search by author, country, journal, institution, publisher, discipline, and reason for retraction



Retraction Watch

Tracking retractions as a window into the scientific process

### Author objects to retraction after he says journal ignored his queries for three years

without comments

In 2014, a journal contacted researcher [Denis Rousseau](#) about one of his papers that had just been published online ahead of print, raising some concerns. According to Rousseau, he sent the journal a corrected figure “almost immediately,” which he believed addressed the issue.



Rousseau, a cell biologist at the University Joseph Fourier in Grenoble, France, said he then contacted the journal many times over the next three years to ask about the status of the paper — which never ended up in print — but heard nothing back.

Three years passed.

In March, the publisher finally contacted Rousseau, this time to ask him to issue a formal retraction for the paper. And despite his objections, *Molecular and Cellular Biology* published a [sparse retraction notice](#), which provides little information about what went wrong.

[Read the rest of this entry >](#)

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Written by Victoria Stern  
May 2nd, 2017 at 11:30 am

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Incorporating retracted  
articles into LIB 250,  
for-credit library course

# Overview of LIB 250

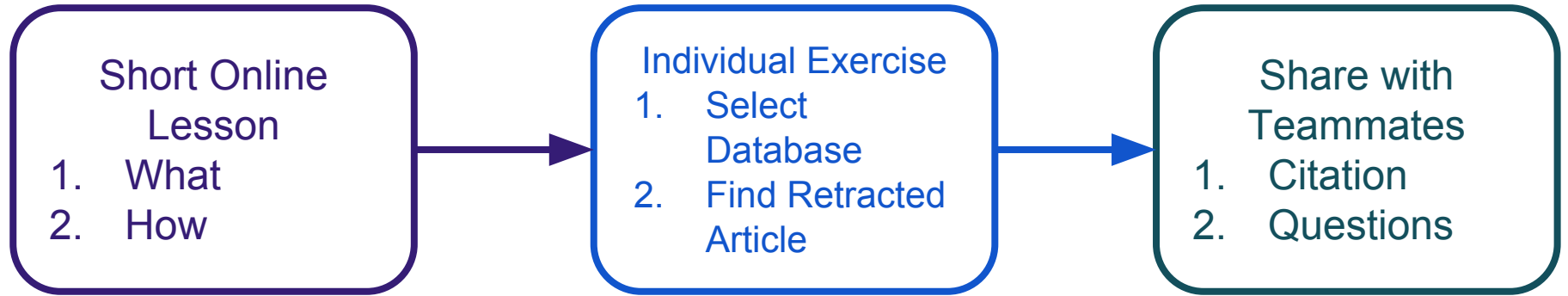
- 4 Credit
- Writing Intensive
- Online
- Library and Internet Research Skills
- Bias Crushing/Mind Expanding/Gluten Free

*“Great course by the way, sure glad I took it as a writing intensive and felt it was one that I actually enjoyed and learned a bit that I can look back on for future endeavors. =)”*

-Appreciative LIB 250 Student



# Instructional design for retracted articles lesson





# ACRL Framework Connections

Authority Is Constructed and Contextual  
Information Creation as a Process

Information Has Value

Research as Inquiry

**Scholarship as Conversation**

Searching as Strategic Exploration




# Results from W17 class

*“Although I was aware of the fact that articles could be retracted, I did not know that you could find them on databases.”*

*“I honestly never even heard of a retracted article until this assignment. It was really interesting to look at the articles that came up in my search when I added the word "retracted". “*

*“What I found most interesting about retracted articles after finding one myself was that people want an article published so bad that they will go to the extent to give fake contact information as if no one will find out.”*

*“When learning about retracted articles, I found it most interesting that after all the work these scholars put into it, and the journal being peer-reviewed before publication, mistakes still seep through the cracks.”*



# Incorporating retracted articles into library instruction

- Use to show off the limits in certain databases and launch into a discussion on retracted articles
- In class assignment based on what was done for LIB 250
- A game to find the most outrageous reason an article was retracted with students voting in class



# Conclusion

# Retracted articles: 'self-correction' method of scholarly publishing

- Article violates a professional code of ethics
- Wide variety of reasons for articles to be retracted
- BUT... retracted articles account for a small % of scholarly articles

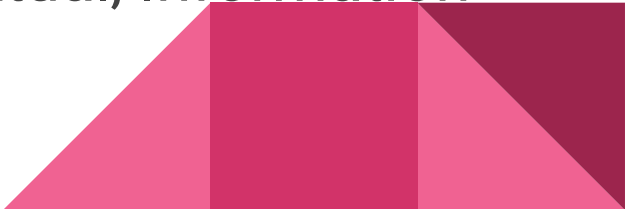


# Each publisher/journal handles retractions differently

- Retraction notices give varying levels of detail about the reason for the retraction
  - [Retraction Watch](#) tries to provide transparency
- Additional sources of information
  - Institution/governmental investigations
  - News source (example: [The Chronicle of Higher Education](#))
- [COPE Retraction Guidelines](#)



# Retracted articles and information literacy

- **Unique way** to get students to explore different databases
    - LIB 250 students really like searching for retracted articles!
  - Not meant for students to distrust scholarly publishing
    - Rather gives them a **healthy dose of skepticism**
    - ACRL *Framework*: Scholarship as Conversation, Authority is Constructed and Contextual, Information Creation as Process
- 

# Questions?

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