

ERRATA, RETRACTIONS, AND EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN

Editorial board of PJNS believes in integrity of published research. Editorial board is committing to maintain the content it publishes, and to alert the readers about the changes in the contents, if and when they occur. PJNS provides its forum to the readers for offering responsible alternative opinions and will publish any correspondence (Letter to the editor or a reply to the letter) regarding its published contents.

As suggested by ICMJE, corrections are needed for errors of fact. In case, any error or misconduct is reported after publication, editor of PJNS will undertake complete and fair investigation of the matter to update, correct, or retract the contents, if such actions are deemed appropriate.

Erratum

An erratum refers to a correction of errors introduced to the article by the journal in editing or production, including errors of omission such as failure to make factual proof corrections requested by authors within the deadline provided by the journal and within journal policy.

During proof stage, PJNS sends the final PDF copy to the corresponding author to identify any errors to be corrected by the journal and approval of the final version by the author before final publication. Errors identified after publication by authors or readers are corrected in PDF copy of the online version. Errata are generally not published for simple, obvious typing errors identified after publication, but are published when an apparently simple error is significant (for example 'cm' in place of 'mm' or a typing error in the corresponding author's email address). A significant error in the figure or table is corrected by publication of a new corrected figure or table as an erratum. The figure or table is republished only if the editor considers it necessary.

Corrigendum

A corrigendum refers to a change to their article that the author wishes to publish at any time after acceptance. Corrigenda submitted by the original authors are published if the scientific accuracy or reproducibility of the original paper is compromised. PJNS will publish corrigenda if there is an error in the published author list, but not usually for overlooked acknowledgements. Authors should contact the editor of PJNS, who will determine the impact of the change and decide on the appropriate course of action.

Readers wishing to draw the journal's attention to a significant published error should submit their comments as a "Letter to the Editor". Such "Letters to the Editor" will be carefully reviewed by unrelated and neutral referees. On editorial acceptance, the paper will be sent to the authors of the original paper to provide an opportunity for their early response.

Addenda

Addenda are judged on the significance of the addition to the interpretation of the original publication. Addenda do not contradict the original publication, but if the authors inadvertently omitted significant information available to them at the time, this material will be published as an addendum after peer review.

Expressions of concern

PJNS may consider issuing an Expression of Concern (EOC) if editors have well-founded concerns and feel that readers should be made aware of potentially misleading information contained in an article.

PJNS will consider an expression of concern if:

- They receive inconclusive evidence of research or publication misconduct by the authors
- There is evidence that the findings are unreliable, but the authors' institution either will not investigate the case or the editors believe that an investigation into alleged misconduct related to the publication either has not been, or would not be, fair and impartial or conclusive
- An investigation is underway, but a judgment will not be available for a considerable time

Retractions

Papers having serious errors to invalidate a paper's results and conclusions, or publication misconduct may require retraction. Retractions may be requested by an article's author(s), by an institution, by readers, or by the editor.

As per COPE retraction guidelines, PJNS will consider retracting a publication if:

- There is a clear evidence that the findings are unreliable, either as a result of major error (eg, miscalculation or experimental error), or as a result of fabrication (eg, of data) or falsification (eg, image manipulation)
- It constitutes plagiarism
- The findings have previously been published elsewhere without proper attribution to previous sources or disclosure to the editor, permission to republish, or justification (ie, cases of redundant publication)
- It contains material or data without authorization for use
- Copyright has been infringed or there is some other serious legal issue
- It reports unethical research
- It has been published solely on the basis of a compromised or manipulated peer review process
- The author(s) failed to disclose a major competing interest (conflict of interest) that, in the view of the editor, would have unduly affected interpretations of the work or recommendations by editors and peer reviewers.

Retraction Process

PJNS adopts the following retraction process to ensure best practice of retraction:

1. An article requiring potential retraction is brought to the attention of PJNS editor.
2. Editor will follow the step-by-step guidelines according to the COPE flowcharts and will seek the response from the author of the article as well.
3. Editorial team will evaluate the evidence of the misconduct and response of the authors. Based on the findings, they will take a final decision whether to retract the publication or otherwise.
4. The final decision is then communicated to the author and, if necessary, any other relevant bodies, such as the author's institution as deemed appropriate.
5. The retraction-note titled "**Retraction: [article title]**" will be published with its own DOI, in the paginated part of a subsequent issue of the journal and listed in the contents list.
6. The text of the retraction will explain why the article is being retracted.
7. The statement of retraction and the original article will be clearly linked in the electronic database so that the retraction will always be apparent to anyone who comes across the original article.