

Stephen Reynolds, President
Rachael M. Jones, Vice President
Board of Directors
Journal of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene (JOEH)

December 11, 2016

Dear Dr. Reynolds, Dr. Jones and JOEH Directors,

ARTICLE WITHDRAWN: Airborne asbestos exposures associated with the installation and removal of roofing products, [Jason T. Lotter](#), [Ben Roberts](#), [John L. Henshaw](#) & [Jennifer S. Pierce](#), <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/15459624.2016.1183010?journalCode=uoeh20>

I note that the above article has been removed from the JOEH website some time after December 5, 2016 and that the above undated statement has been posted stating that the article has been withdrawn, without providing an explanation or further information.

I am glad that the article has finally been removed from the JOEH website four months after the JOEH Board of Directors voted to retract the article.

The removal of the article, while welcome, leaves a number of serious problems that have not been addressed.

- The JOEH Board of Directors has not addressed the serious scientific and ethical improprieties that were brought to its attention.
- The International Chrysotile Association (ICA) continues to promote the JOEH asbestos roofing article and its scientific misinformation and its erroneous conclusions on the [ICA website](#) to help the asbestos industry increase its sales of asbestos-cement roofing.
- The statement on the JOEH website does not address the fact that subscribers who receive the JOEH in print format still have the asbestos roofing article and its harmful misinformation in print format. The JOEH statement on your website provides no information as to how print subscribers will be informed that the JOEH has withdrawn the article and that they should disregard the article.

I request that:

- The JOEH Board of Directors address the serious scientific and ethical improprieties that were brought to its attention in letters sent on [July 18, 2016](#) and [July 28, 2016](#) and that the Board of Directors implement the five specific actions we requested that it take in order to prevent further occurrences of such improprieties.

- The JOEH Board of Directors immediately contact the International Chrysotile Association and ask it to immediately remove the JOEH asbestos roofing article from its website and that the ICA post a statement on its website stating that the JOEH has withdrawn the Lotter et al. Asbestos roofing article and that the article, its content and its conclusions should be completely disregarded.
- The JOEH Board of Directors publish a statement in the next print issue of the JOEH, advising print subscribers that the Lotter et al. Asbestos roofing article has been withdrawn, that subscribers should remove the article or mark it as withdrawn, and should disregard the content and conclusions of the article.

I would appreciate receiving a prompt response on the above three serious matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Ruff". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "R".

Kathleen Ruff

Senior Human Rights Adviser, Rideau Institute, Canada; Director, Right On Canada; Expert Adviser on human rights and ethics to the Executive Committee and Chair, International Joint Policy Committee of the Societies of Epidemiology (IJPC-SE); Honorary Fellow, Collegium Ramazzini