



**Allegheny
Health Network**

Allegheny Health Network
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Alberto Cigada
Editor in Chief
Journal of Applied Biomaterials and Functional Materials

Re: Ehrlich GD, Hu FZ, Sotereanos N, Sewicke J, Parvizi J, Nara PL, Arciola CR.
What role do periodontal pathogens play in osteoarthritis and periprosthetic joint infections of the knee?
J Appl Biomater Funct Mater. 2014 Jun 12;12(1):13-20. doi: 10.5301/jabfm.5000203.

Dear Editor in Chief:

I am writing in my capacity as Vice President of Research of Allegheny-Singer Research Institute concerning the article entitled "What role do periodontal pathogens play in osteoarthritis and periprosthetic joint infections of the knee?" that was published in your journal "*J Appl Biomater Funct Mater*, 2014; 12 (1):13-20", and which was published online in the *Journal of Applied Biomaterials and Functional Materials* on June 12, 2014. The studies described in this article were conducted at the Allegheny-Singer Research Institute (ASRI) in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. ASRI is part of the Allegheny Health Network (AHN). West Penn Allegheny Health System (WPAHS) doing business as Allegheny General Hospital (AGH) is part of AHN.

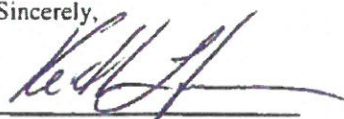
The work described in the paper was initiated in 2007, and the studies themselves became operational and were carried out between 2009 – 2011, and work continued in some respects through June, 2014. These studies resulted in a significant set of data which are presented in part in this article. The studies were performed with the participation of a large group of Co-Investigators, some of whom are noted as co-authors of this article and some whom are not.

Recently, significant objections have been raised to the publication of this data in this format by the Principal Investigator for this WPAHS/ASRI clinical trial, who is not listed as a co-author on this article. The matter has unfortunately become the subject of litigation and we have developed a strongly held institutional view of the appropriate actions to take.

We believe the article must be retracted since the PI of the IRB approved WPAHS/ASRI study is not listed as a co-author and the PI of the IRB WPAHS/ASRI study asserts that he has not validated the accuracy of the data presented. It has been agreed to permit the PI of the IRB WPAHS/ASRI study to independently validate the provenance or accuracy of the data. In addition, other manuscripts which contain data from this clinical trial and even some of the same text from the article were being produced by some of the unnamed authors of this manuscript. This dispute can only be resolved by retraction of the article, and therefore we request that you retract this paper at your earliest convenience.

The lead author, Dr. Garth D. Ehrlich, has co-signed this letter. We have tried very hard to find another way to resolve the problems that exist, but at this time the paper will need to be retracted.

Sincerely,


Dr. Keith LeJeune

Dr. Garth D. Ehrlich