

October 8, 2020

VIA EMAIL AND FIRST CLASS MAIL

Mr. Adam Marcus
Co-founder, *Retraction Watch*
121 W. 36th St.
Suite 209
New York, NY 10018

Re: Monica Kraft

Dear Mr. Marcus

On behalf of our client Dr. Monica Kraft, we are writing to request a retraction of the article published by *Retraction Watch* on December 20, 2019, entitled “Duke misconduct case prompts another expression of concern – but not a retraction.”

That article includes the misleading suggestions that Dr. Kraft was implicated in misconduct and that she was accused of negligence. Those charges are based solely on an interpretation of unproven allegations in a complaint by a disgruntled employee seeking a payoff. The fact is, Dr. Kraft was never named as a defendant in any case, including after the Justice Department and other federal agencies undertook their own investigation. She was not consulted about the resolution of the case, and is not party to any settlement, including the \$112.5 million settlement mentioned in the article.

Further, by including discussion of Dr. Kraft, the article insinuates that she was a co-author of the 2007 paper authored by William Foster. If *Retraction Watch* had cared to include a link or citation, it would have been obvious that Dr. Kraft was not a co-author of this paper. Additionally, Dr. Kraft’s tenure as the president of the American Thoracic Society has no relevancy to any of the allegations made in the article and so its inclusion is misleading and tends to impugn her professional standing. She served as President five years after the 2007 paper was published and the American Thoracic Society was not implicated in the settlement or the related allegations.

As troubling, there was no attempt by your website to contact Dr. Kraft for comment prior to publication—a fundamental journalistic practice. If anyone from *Retraction Watch* had taken that rudimentary step, they would have learned that she promptly notified both the appropriate University

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authorities and federal grant sources of her concern, and cooperated fully in the subsequent internal and external investigations into the misconduct that gave rise to the settlement. At each stage, Dr. Kraft evinced a commitment to scientific integrity and the truth that has been the hallmark of her career.

Dr. Kraft is a preeminent leader in her field. She has a distinguished track record as a clinician, teacher and researcher, and has made significant contributions to Duke during her tenure at the university as in her subsequent profession endeavors.

Accordingly, we request that you cease any further publication of this article, remove it from your website and issue an immediate retraction. If you wish to discuss this further, I can be reached at (202) 303-1122.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Weinstein', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Martin J. Weinstein