

I am not sure what I did that what led them to conclude that there are concerns regarding the trials I participated in. I disagree with the content as I have made a lot of effort in research and all my time was devoted for research. None of research was false or fabricated. Thanks to Dr Ben Mol, I was asked for a lot of datasets of our studies and many of these concerns have been cleared by the involved journals.

Regarding Non covid-19 studies, most of these studies are master or MD theses in our university and I was a part of this work due to my writing skills; and so, I was acknowledged in these works and was a coauthor in these works; and as a result of this, **I am the first author in only three trials out of all these trials.** I would also like to inform you that Egypt had a lot of HCV patients. In Egypt we treated more than a million of patients during the period of 2013 to 2018 in 27 centers for HCV treatment units in Egypt. We have **had a lot of HCV Egyptian patients** and patients with CLD which helped us in our research.

The complaints came from Dr Ben Mol and **they were targeted against Egyptian researchers mainly** (as he said himself in one of his previous emails that he will plead after any clinical trial from Egypt). Interestingly, there are many concerns on the work of Dr Ben Mol himself: [https://www.researchsquare.com/article/rs-2823793/v3\]\(http://\)](https://www.researchsquare.com/article/rs-2823793/v3](http://)) and he has a recent retracted article: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0002937823001382>; this was highlighted in this study among 16 publications highlighted in this study and more retractions are coming.

Dr Ben Mol targeted our research and his allegations caused the retraction for our group with no obvious cause or just minor revisions which did not affect research constructions or conclusions. **For some editors, the decision of retraction was made even before we read our replies** (somebodies were not ready to listen) e.g. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/36001630/>. We were cooperative with the journals and provided the journals with the raw data and spent a lot of efforts. However; due to continuous pressure from the whistle blower (dr Ben Mol); our articles were retracted.

We hope that our reply is sufficient and enough.

I wonder how articles in gastroenterology is interesting for an obstetrician and doesn't know the value of our research or what we face in Gastroenterology as our research aimed to alleviate the sufferings of patients with liver or gastrointestinal problems.

Regarding COVID-19 trials, we would like to inform your excellency that they were performed in major Egyptian universities and not only our institution. The hospitals in which we work has been designated as a hospital to isolate corona cases since April 2020 (kindly check this link: <https://www.shorouknews.com/news/view.aspx?cdate=05042020&id=435baec0-8b48-4d17-8a9d-0ae28f033621>), and the same applies to the rest of the hospitals participating in the research.

The peak of the 1st wave of COVID 19 in Egypt was in between April and July 2020 (kindly check this reference: Samir, A., Elabd, A.M., Mohamed, W. et al. COVID-19 in Egypt after a year: the first and second pandemic waves from the radiological point of view; multi-center comparative study on 2000 patients. Egypt J Radiol Nucl Med 52, 168 (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s43055-021-00549-3>). And to limit the spread of Corona, the Egyptian authorities imposed measures that limit working hours and movement on the streets, which reduced my working hours in my private clinic. There were a lot of Covid-19 patients in these major hospitals and in some of these institutions there were three isolation hospitals for COVID-19 patients.

These factors helped us save the time and effort necessary to conduct these three studies, and more, with sound scientific standards as much as we can.

Thanks to Dr Ben Mol, I was asked for a lot of datasets of our studies and most of these concerns have been cleared by the involved journals. We wonder that after 10 years of submission we are requested to submit data sheets again. We could not imagine this step. The article was reviewed by the editorial office and by 2 other reviewers who did not request data. Where is the problem? We don't know. We ask the journals to ask for datasets from the start to avoid exposing authors and scientists to any unfair allegations as sometimes the datasets are destroyed and we spent a lot of time recollecting the data.

I hope that all my response is published.

Also, Following our attempt to present validation on a checklist for evaluating the credibility of randomized controlled trials (TRACT) using 16 articles published by the TRACT developer, we got comments on [pubpeer.com](#) questioning our validation.

This manuscript got great attention with more than 1600 views within few days and received a lot of positive comments and were considered by some as a publicly available evidence on limitations of TRACT.

So, we tried to address these remarks on [pubpeer.com](#), but our responses were unfairly removed by PubPeer moderators without notification or justification. We have provided links to the comments and our responses, which were removed.

<https://pubpeer.com/publications/C15E1F55980CE00EAFA2AB3E499133>

<https://pubpeer.com/publications/0FCDB7344A053D38EFFFE9BAE5658E>

<https://pubpeer.com/publications/D4F2F16CAA7BF7C5834AC6E4D403E0>

Why comments of both Egyptians authors, were removed? Is it deliberate?

We are calling on the scientific community to take action

The link of our preprint: [h]<https://www.researchsquare.com/article/rs-2823793/v3>

I hope that all these points are published in your report.

Best regards,

Thank you,

Dr Sherief Abd-Elsalam