

The passing of our colleague Maria Alexandra Anghel remains at the forefront of our thoughts. Many colleagues in our Romania offices have expressed that the media and blog speculation surrounding this situation has been deeply traumatizing. As a priority, we have focused on providing grief counseling and immediate support to our teams, offering time away and work-from-home options to help them during this difficult time. We continuously review our processes and operations, and employee safety remains a top priority for us.

Linking this tragic event to working practices would be completely inappropriate without you having the facts or formal information. An independent investigation is ongoing, and our top priority remains supporting Alexandra's family and our colleagues.

It's important to acknowledge that these types of articles also have a negative impact on the mental health of employees who were not only Alexandra's colleagues but also her close friends.

While some individuals may use this opportunity to voice frustration, something we understand and respect, it's important to note that their views may not reflect the reality or opinion of the majority of our staff, management, or operational practices.

At MDPI, employees are encouraged to maintain both quality and efficiency in their work.

Decisions on which papers are accepted for publication are made solely by independent Academic Editors, scholars in the field, and not by MDPI staff.

We have seen how media and blogs can sometimes exploit sensitive situations for clicks and attention without having a full grasp of the facts. I trust Retraction Watch will respect the gravity of this situation and adhere to their mission to 'promote transparency and integrity in science.'