

From: Laertis Ikonomou laertisi@buffalo.edu 
Subject: RE: FW: Urgent: Request for Retraction of Fraudulent Publication
Date: November 10, 2025 at 8:07 PM
To: Manuscripts Walsh Medical Media wwwmanuscripts@journalsci.org

Dear Mr. Harrison,

As I have stated time and time again, I never submitted a paper to your online journal or accepted any of your terms, and I did not write the piece you published under my name.

Your most recent email requesting €400 or an unspecified sum as a "withdrawal fee" in return for taking down a bogus article that was published without my knowledge or consent is illegal and unacceptable. According to UK law, your insistence on payment as a condition of stopping the misuse of my identity seems to be an unwarranted demand with menaces under **section 21 of the Theft Act 1968 (blackmail)** under UK Law.

You are also processing my personal data (name and institutional details) without my consent, in breach of the **UK GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018**, and have refused to correct or erase inaccurate data after being put on notice.

As a result, I require that you:

- 1) Take the fraudulent article down from your website right away.
- 2) Within seven days, provide written confirmation that you have stopped using my personal information in relation to this article and that no further charges will be demanded from me.

If you don't comply or keep requesting money from me, I'll do the following:

- 1) Report improper processing of my personal data to the UK Information Commissioner's Office (ICO).
- 2) Report suspected blackmail to UK law enforcement.
- 3) Inform the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) of the United States that your company's operations seem to carry on the dishonest and hostage-style tactics that were previously denounced in the **FTC v. OMICS case**.
- 4) Consider civil legal action against your company in the UK and other jurisdictions.

Nothing in this correspondence should be taken as an admission of any obligation to your organization, and I reserve all rights and remedies.

Sincerely,
Laertis Ikonomou

From: Manuscripts Walsh Medical Media <wwwmanuscripts@journalsci.org>
Sent: Monday, November 10, 2025 12:45 AM
To: Laertis Ikonomou <laertisi@buffalo.edu>
Subject: Re: FW: Urgent: Request for Retraction of Fraudulent Publication

Dear Dr. Ikonomou,

Thank you for your response. As well as we understand your concern. As we already mentioned in the previous mail, without the publication fee we can't remove the article. So kindly make a payment of 400 Euros and clear it.

Otherwie let me know, how much you will ready to pay.

Regards,
Dwayne Harrison

On Nov 7 2025, at 10:23 pm, Laertis Ikonomou <laertisi@buffalo.edu> wrote:

I would like to follow up on my previous request. This fake paper is still online. I request its immediate removal.

Thank you,
Laertis Ikonomou

From: Laertis Ikonomou
Sent: Monday, October 6, 2025 7:55 AM
To: Manuscripts Walsh Medical Media <wwwmanuscripts@journalsci.org>
Subject: RE: FW: Urgent: Request for Retraction of Fraudulent Publication

I do not understand what you mean by fee. Someone used my name, a fake affiliation, and a fake email address to submit a paper to jour journal. I did not submit this paper. This a serious violation of research integrity and publication ethics. I request that you remove this paper immediately otherwise there will be legal action.

Thank you,
Laertis Ikonomou

From: Manuscripts Walsh Medical Media <wwwmanuscripts@journalsci.org>
Sent: Monday, October 6, 2025 12:15 AM
To: Laertis Ikonomou <laertisi@buffalo.edu>
Subject: Re: FW: Urgent: Request for Retraction of Fraudulent Publication

Dear Dr. Laertis Ikonomou,

We understand your concern and definately will remove the article from the website. In mean while we need a confirmation regarding the withdrawal charges. Once the article has been recieved from the author within 24 hours the article will be withdrawal. Otherwise, as per the author guidelines you need to pay the fee.

Once check the journal page and conform the charges. In mean while, once we will dicuss with our team.

Regards,
Dwayne Harrison

On Oct 6 2025, at 5:01 am, Laertis Ikonomou <laertisi@buffalo.edu> wrote:

Please see below. I have received no reply to my email and the paper in question is still online. Please remove this paper immediately.

From: Laertis Ikonomou
Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 12:10 PM

2011, Tuesday, September 20, 2011 12:10 PM
To: 'wmmeditor@medicalsoci.org' <wmmeditor@medicalsoci.org>
Cc: 'cope@publicationethics.org' <cope@publicationethics.org>;
'rui.amaralmendes@case.edu' <rui.amaralmendes@case.edu>
Subject: Urgent: Request for Retraction of Fraudulent Publication
Importance: High

To whom it may concern.

I am writing to report a serious violation of research integrity and publication ethics. A paper has been published in your online journal under my name without my knowledge or consent:

<https://www.walshmedicalmedia.com/open-access/the-applications-of-gene-therapy-in-the-treatment-of-genetic-and-acquired-diseases-134239.html>

I did not author this article. The email address and institutional affiliation listed are not mine.

I request that you:

1. Immediately remove this article from your website.
2. Confirm in writing that the removal has been completed.
3. Provide an explanation of how this submission was accepted given the fake email address and affiliation of the author and what measures your journal will take to prevent such incidents in the future.

I am copying here the **COPE** and one of your editors-in-chief, **Dr. Rui Amaral Mendes** (<https://www.walshmedicalmedia.com/carcinogenesis-mutagenesis/editor-in-chief.html>)

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Laertis Ikononou, PhD
Associate Professor
Department of Oral Biology, University at Buffalo



Research Associate Professor, Department of Medicine, Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine

Affiliate Faculty, Biomedical Engineering Department
Affiliate Faculty, Chemical and Biological Engineering Department
Member, Cell, Gene and Tissue Engineering (CGTE) Center

619 Biomedical Research Building, Buffalo, NY 14214

 laertisi@buffalo.edu | 

<https://dental.buffalo.edu/faculty/ubprofilehomepage.html?ubit=laertisi>

| Google Scholar: <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=wBBOGFEEAAAJ&hl=en&oi=ao>