

March 19, 2026

Stephen Sherry, Ph.D., Acting Director
National Library of Medicine
National Institutes of Health
8600 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, Maryland 20894

RE: Formal Request for MEDLINE/PubMed Reevaluation of the Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (JAACAP) and Elsevier, Inc, its publisher.

Dear Dr. Sherry:

I write to you as a private citizen and attorney with extensive knowledge of GlaxoSmithKline's infamous Study 329 - one of the most consequential and deadly frauds in the history of pediatric medicine. I submit this formal complaint and request for reevaluation of the Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (JAACAP) and its publisher Elsevier, Inc., pursuant to the National Library of Medicine's published policies governing MEDLINE journal participation.

I. THE ARTICLE AT ISSUE

The article in question is: Keller MB, Ryan ND, Strober M, et al., "*Efficacy of Paroxetine in the Treatment of Adolescent Major Depression: A Randomized, Controlled Trial*," Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, 40(7):762-772 (July 2001) ("the Keller article").

This Keller article has been conclusively proven to be fraudulent by the following evidence, each item of which is documented and available upon request:

- On July 2, 2012, the United States Department of Justice announced that GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) pleaded guilty and agreed to pay \$3 billion — the largest healthcare fraud settlement in U.S. history — specifically including criminal liability for "preparing, publishing and distributing a misleading medical journal article that misrepresented that a clinical trial of Paxil demonstrated efficacy in the treatment of depression in patients under age 18, when the study failed to demonstrate efficacy." The article referenced in the DOJ criminal complaint is the Keller article.
- In 2015, an independent team of researchers published a full reanalysis of the underlying Study 329 data under the Restoring Invisible and Abandoned Trials (RIAT) initiative (Jureidini et al., BMJ 2015;351:h4320), concluding that paroxetine was no better than placebo for adolescent depression and that serious adverse events including suicidality were systematically concealed under the term "emotional lability."
- Multiple peer reviewers at JAACAP itself raised concerns about both the efficacy claims and the adverse event reporting prior to publication. Those concerns were not addressed in the published article.

- Deposition testimony from the article's own named authors — including the clinical trial's principal investigator — confirmed that Study 329 showed only a "signal" of efficacy, not the definitive efficacy stated in the published article's abstract.
- On September 30, 2025, JAACAP placed an Expression of Concern (EoC) on the Keller article — acknowledging that credible and serious concerns exist regarding its reliability — yet has refused to retract it.

II. JAACAP'S VIOLATIONS OF NLM'S PUBLISHED STANDARDS

NLM's MEDLINE participation policies state explicitly that NLM expects publishers to follow established industry best practices, including COPE's Guidelines for retracting articles. NLM will reevaluate a journal for continued participation in MEDLINE if there are problems identified with articles that a publisher fails to address or that appear to be systemic, or if there are verifiable concerns about the scientific or editorial quality of the journal content.

JAACAP and its publisher Elsevier have failed to meet these standards in the following documented respects:

- 1) COPE retraction guidelines require retraction when there is clear evidence that findings are unreliable as a result of fabrication or falsification. A DOJ criminal conviction for misrepresenting the findings of a clinical trial constitutes the clearest possible evidence of fabrication. JAACAP has refused to retract despite this conviction.
- 2) COPE guidelines further provide that an Expression of Concern should be replaced by a notice of retraction if the article is shown to be unreliable. The Keller article has been shown to be unreliable by a criminal conviction, an independent scientific reanalysis, and the admissions of its own authors. JAACAP has refused to convert the EoC to retraction.
- 3) The EoC itself was issued only under direct legal pressure — specifically, after a motion for preliminary injunction that was supported by 375 pages of documentary evidence asking that the Court issue a warning that the article was subject to a lawsuit alleging it was false, misleading and dangerous to public health was prepared and about to be filed in *Murgatroyd v. AACAP & Elsevier, Inc.*, DC Superior Court — rather than as the result of good-faith editorial review.
- 4) This failure is systemic and longstanding. Formal retraction requests were submitted in 2009, 2012, 2013, 2015, and 2023. None resulted in action. JAACAP's refusal to retract across sixteen years, in the face of a DOJ criminal conviction, manufacturer and regulatory body findings and warnings, an independent scientific reanalysis, and the admissions of the Keller article authors constitutes a documented pattern of failure to follow established industry best practices.
- 5) The failure of an alleged ongoing COPE investigation that is now entering its ninth month despite the overwhelming evidence of fraud.

III. THE PUBLIC HEALTH STAKES

Paroxetine (Paxil) has never been FDA-approved for any pediatric indication. The Keller article falsely stated it was "generally well tolerated and effective for major depression in adolescents."

This article has been cited hundreds of times in the scientific literature and was distributed by GSK's sales force to physicians across the United States, resulting in millions of prescriptions written to children and adolescents for a drug that was not effective and that significantly increased the risk of suicidality.

The Keller article remains available for purchase on the JAACAP and Elsevier websites to this day. Every citation of this article in current literature, every physician who reads it, and every clinical guideline that relies on it perpetuates a fraud that has cost adolescent lives. PubMed's continued indexing of this article without adequate flagging lends it the institutional credibility of the National Library of Medicine.

IV. REQUESTED ACTION

I respectfully request that the National Library of Medicine:

- Initiate a formal reevaluation of JAACAP's continued participation in MEDLINE and PubMed Central, pursuant to NLM's published policy, based on JAACAP's documented and systemic failure to follow COPE retraction guidelines.
- Ensure that the existing Expression of Concern on the Keller article is prominently and accurately reflected in PubMed's citation record for the article, so that any researcher or physician accessing it is immediately alerted to the serious concerns regarding its reliability.
- Notify Elsevier, Inc. as JAACAP's publisher that its failure to follow established industry best practices — specifically COPE retraction guidelines — in connection with the Keller article places JAACAP's MEDLINE eligibility at risk.

I am prepared to provide the complete evidentiary record supporting this complaint, including the DOJ criminal complaint, the RIAT reanalysis, deposition transcripts from GSK litigation, and the full filing record from Murgatroyd v. AACAP & Elsevier, Inc. Please advise as to the appropriate mechanism for submitting this material. I am willing to present and go over such material in person.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for NLM's longstanding commitment to the integrity of the scientific record.

Respectfully submitted,

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