

**From:** [Iratxe Puebla](#)  
**Sent:** Monday, October 06, 2014 12:58 PM  
**To:** [jaak Janssens](#) ; [Daly, Phil](#)  
**Cc:** [Kathleen Ruff](#)  
**Subject:** Concerns raised to the attention of COPE by Kathleen Ruff

Dear Dr Daly and Dr Janssens,

I am writing in relation to the concerns raised by Kathleen Ruff regarding the publication in the *European Journal of Cancer Prevention* by La Vecchia and Boffetta.

We have reviewed the information available and note that the subsequent correspondence on this case indicates that there was a conflict of interest on the part of the authors which should have been declared with the article. We thus recommend that you post a Correction on the publication to outline the conflict of interest statement. Such a Correction is not intended to be punitive but merely aimed at correcting the literature as needed.

This is in line with the COPE recommendations for situations where a conflict of interest comes to light after publication: <http://publicationethics.org/files/u7140/COI%20published.pdf>

Should the editors not be willing to issue a Correction, we recommend that Ms Ruff posts the concerns about an undeclared conflict of interest on PubMed Commons (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmedcommons>), this will allow readers to be aware of this concern as well as the journal's position not to issue a Correction.

Many thanks for your attention to this matter and please let us know if we can provide further clarification regarding our recommendation.

With best wishes,

Iratxe Puebla  
COPE Membership Assistant  
Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE)  
[www.publicationethics.org](http://www.publicationethics.org)

Registered charity No 1123023  
Registered in England and Wales, Company No 6389120  
Registered office: COPE, 22 Nelson Close, Harleston, Norfolk IP20 9HL, UK

On behalf of

Dr Virginia Barbour

Chair, COPE