

Stephen Reynolds, President
Members of the Board of Directors
Journal of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene (JOEH)

September 25, 2016

Dear Dr. Reynolds and Members of the Board of Directors:

Airborne asbestos exposures associated with the installation and removal of roofing products, Jason T. Lotter, Ben Roberts, John L. Henshaw & Jennifer S. Pierce
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/15459624.2016.1183010>

In a message sent on August 19, Dr. Mark Nicas, the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene (JOEH), notified us that "On August 10, the JOEH Board of Directors voted to retract the asbestos article due to an inadequate peer review stemming from the miscategorization of the article as a Case Study and not a Review article. That is likely the nature of the statement that will appear in the JOEH."

Two things have occurred since then, giving us concern:

1. We are disturbed by the fact that the article has still not been retracted, as was decided by the Board of Directors on August 10.
2. We are further disturbed by the fact that the corresponding author of the article, Jason Lotter of Cardno ChemRisk, is cited in an [article](#) in Retraction Watch calling the August 10 decision of the Board of Directors a "draft" decision.

We call on you as President and on the other members of the Board of Directors to act with integrity and implement the decision to retract the article that the Board took at its August 10 meeting. We encourage the JOEH not to abandon scientific and ethical standards and reverse its decision to retract the article in order to bow to pressure from vested interests and/or people with an obvious conflict-of-interest.

Please inform us whether the JOEH Board of Directors will implement its decision to retract the article and by what date we might expect to see it retracted.

Sincerely,

NOTE: Titles and affiliations of the individual signers below are given for identification purposes only.

Kathleen Ruff, Senior Human Rights Adviser, Rideau Institute, Canada; Director, Right On Canada; Expert Adviser on human rights and ethics to the Executive Committee and Chair, International Joint Policy Committee of the Societies of Epidemiology (IJPC-SE).

Dr. Peter Infante, D.D.S., Dr.P.H., F.A.C.E., Peter F. Infante Consulting, LLC; Formerly Director, Office of Standards Review, Health Standards Program, Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA), Washington, D.C., USA.

Dr. Peter Orris, MD, MPH, Professor and Chief of Service, Occupational and Environmental Medicine, University of Illinois Hospital and Health Sciences System, Chicago, IL, USA.

Dr. Hans-Joachim Weitowitz, M.D. Professor Emeritus, former Director of the Institute and Outpatient Clinic of Occupational and Social Medicine (Public Health) of the Justus-Liebig University of Giessen, Faculty of Medicine, Germany.

Dr. Colin L. Soskolne, Professor emeritus, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada; Adjunct Professor, Health Research Institute, University of Canberra, Australia; Immediate Past-Chair, International Joint Policy Committee of the Societies of Epidemiology (IJPC-SE); Past-President, Canadian Society for Epidemiology and Biostatistics; Fellow, American College of Epidemiology; Fellow, Collegium Ramazzini, Italy.

Dr. Paul Brandt-Rauf, DrPH, MD, ScD, Professor Emeritus at Columbia University, New York City, USA.

Dr. Tushar Kant Joshi, FRCS., FFOM., Director, OEM Programme, Centre for Occupational & Environmental Health, Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi, India; Former Occupational Health Consultant, WHO India; Fellow, Collegium Ramazzini; Visiting Professor, Occupational Health, Drexel University, USA.

Dr. Xaver Baur, MD, Professor, Occupational and Environmental Medicine and Internal Pulmonary Medicine, Charité University Medicine Berlin; Fellow, Collegium Ramazzini, Italy; President, European Society for Environmental and Occupational Medicine, Germany.

Dr. Pierre Gosselin, MD, MPH, Director, WHO-PAHO Collaborating Center on Occupational and Environmental Health, CHUQ-INSPQ-DSP, Québec, Canada.

Conflict Of Interest Statement

Kathleen Ruff, Hans-Joachim Weitowitz, Paul Brandt-Rau, Tushar Kant Joshi, Xaver Baur and Pierre Gosselin have no conflicts of interest to declare. Peter Infante has in the past testified in one case of asbestos exposure and mesothelioma. Peter Orris has in the past been an expert witness for individual plaintiffs in asbestos litigation and a few workers compensation cases. Colin L. Soskolne was last involved in 2012 as an expert witness in tort actions on behalf of plaintiffs. He was an initial lead author in the International Joint Policy Committee of the Societies of Epidemiology (IJPC-SE) 2012 Position Statement on Asbestos.

Copy: Dr. Mark Nicas