Retraction & Correction Policy

CONTEXT

In the light of numerous reports of scientific fraud and misconduct, we find it necessary to establish a robust policy to govern such occurrences in our journals. In line with our general commitment to openness and in order to maintain high scientific standards, we feel obliged to be transparent about our Editorial Policy on issuing retractions and corrections.

InTech’s policy on issuing retractions and corrections is developed in accordance with COPE’s publication guidelines pertaining to scientific misconduct and research ethics. The basics of this policy are laid forth as follows:

1. RETRACTIONS

A RETRACTION of an article will be issued by a journal Editor, either following an Author’s request or a 3rd party’s report of scientific misconduct. Upon receipt of a 3rd party’s report the Editor shall make a reasonable effort to investigate allegations of scientific misconduct in cooperation with the Author(s) and their institution(s).

A RETRACTION shall be issued when there is clear and conclusive evidence of:

- data fabrication
- data recycling in a purportedly original research article
- severe plagiarism - determined by an Editor and facilitated by plagiarism checking software
- double publication
- copyright infringement - e.g. if an article uses copyrighted figures without permission
- unreliable findings
- unethical research practices
- any other practice or act considered potentially harmful to the scientific community

Publishing of a RETRACTION NOTICE will adhere to the following guidelines:

- all relevant bibliographic information about a retracted article will be given in the title.
- a retraction notice will be published as a regular journal article: it will be given its own DOI and article number.
- a retraction notice will be interlinked with a retracted article wherever possible to ensure that readers be sufficiently informed about the retraction.

A retracted article PDF will be digitally watermarked to stress that it has been retracted. It will remain available online unless it meets criteria for a REMOVAL described in 1.1.

Authors shall be required to approve a proposed retraction of their article. If Authors maintain that their article should not be retracted, an Editor may issue a STATEMENT OF CONCERN described further below.

1.1. REMOVALS

Additionally, an article retracted on grounds of copyright infringement (e.g. double publication) may be REMOVED by the Publisher should the original copyright owner request a removal. An article retracted on grounds of its potential harmfulness to the scientific community (e.g. when an article is defamatory in nature) may also be subject to removal.

No formal removal notice will be published. Instead of it, a message stating the reason for removal will be prominently displayed in place of a retracted and subsequently removed article.
2. STATEMENTS OF CONCERN

A STATEMENT OF CONCERN detailing alleged misconduct will be issued by a journal Editor or Publisher following a 3rd party’s report of scientific misconduct when:

- Authors refuse to approve a retraction proposed by an Editor
- there is inconclusive evidence of scientific misconduct
- Authors and their respective institutions fail or refuse to provide adequate assistance in an investigation

Publishing of a STATEMENT OF CONCERN will adhere to the RETRACTION NOTICE guidelines outlined in 1.

An article PDF for which a STATEMENT OF CONCERN is published will remain available online without being edited and watermarked.

3. CORRECTIONS

A CORRECTION will be issued by an Editor when:

- only a small portion of an article is flawed in a way that does not severely affect findings reported in it
- it is determined that the scientific community would be better served by a correction than a retraction

CORRECTIONS will be issued in one of two distinct forms -- ERRATUM or CORRIGENDUM -- depending on the origin of a mistake.

3.1. ERRATUM

An ERRATUM will be issued by an Editor when it is determined that a mistake in an article originates from the production process handled by the Publisher.

A published ERRATUM will adhere to the retraction notice publishing guidelines outlined in 1.

3.2. CORRIGENDUM

A CORRIGENDUM will be issued by an Editor when it is determined that a mistake in an article is a result of an Author’s miscalculation or oversight.

A published CORRIGENDUM will adhere to the retraction notice publishing guidelines outlined in 1.

4. FINAL REMARKS

The final decision on whether a RETRACTION, a STATEMENT OF CONCERN or a CORRECTION will be issued rests with a journal’s Editor.

The Publisher obliges to act upon any reports of scientific misconduct in its journals and make a reasonable effort to facilitate subsequent investigation of such claims.

We encourage our authors and readers to report errors or any forms of scientific misconduct to [Managing eEditor] at: [email].

Any suggestions or comments on this policy are welcome and may be sent to Saša Marcan at: marcan@intechopen.com