Retraction notice


Zhijun Jiea, Wei Suna, Shanze Wangb, Frederick Kosterb, Bilan Lib, Kevin S. Harrodab

a Department of Respiratory Medicine, The Fifth People’s Hospital of Shanghai, Fudan University, Shanghai, China
b Infectious Disease Program, Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute, Albuquerque, NM, USA

This article has been retracted: please see Elsevier Policy on Article Withdrawal (http://www.elsevier.com/locate/withdrawalpolicy).

This article has been retracted at the request of the Editor and the Publisher.

After a thorough investigation, the Publisher has concluded that the acceptance of this article was based upon the positive advice of at least one faked reviewer report. The report was submitted from a fictitious email account which was provided to the journal as a suggested reviewer by the first author during the submission of the paper. The first author has created the email account kevinsharrod@hotmail.com identifying and representing himself as the apparent corresponding author of the above article.

This manipulation of the peer-review process represents a clear violation of the fundamentals of peer review, our publishing policies, and publishing ethics standards. Apologies are offered to the reviewers whose identities were assumed and to the readers of the journal that this deception was not detected during the submission process.