

Retractions and Research Integrity: What Fields Can Learn From One Another

Ivan Oransky, MD

Co-Founder, Retraction Watch

Executive Director, The Center For Scientific Integrity

Distinguished Journalist In Residence, NYU

Editor in Chief, The Transmitter

@ivanoransky

@retractionwatch


Why Care About Retractions?

Investigations

The cancer drug, the faked data and the superstar scientist

An investigation can reveal the secret history of one of Australia's top scientists, whose faked data underpins a drug now being given to patients.

Liam Mannix and William Davis
JULY 26, 2015



Mark Smyth was once one of the nation's most-lauded scientists. MATT DAVIDSON

Diederik Stapel now has 58 retractions

Social psychologist Diederik Stapel has notched his 58th retraction, after admitting he fabricated data in yet another article.



He's holding onto his 4th place spot on our leaderboard.

This latest retraction is for "Correction or comparison? The effects of prime awareness on social judgments," published in the *European Journal of Social Psychology*. As usual for Stapel, this paper has been retracted because he fabricated data.

FRAUD, ARROGANCE, and TRAGEDY in the QUEST to CURE ALZHEIMER'S

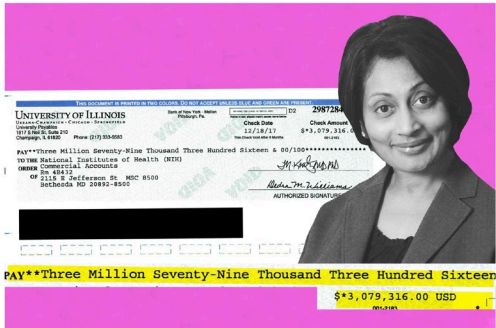
DOCTORED

CHARLES PILLER

Stanford President Will Resign After Report Found Flaws in His Research

Marc Tessier-Lavigne was cleared of accusations of scientific fraud and misconduct. But the review said his work had "multiple problems" and "fell below customary standards of scientific rigor."

The \$3 Million Research Breakdown

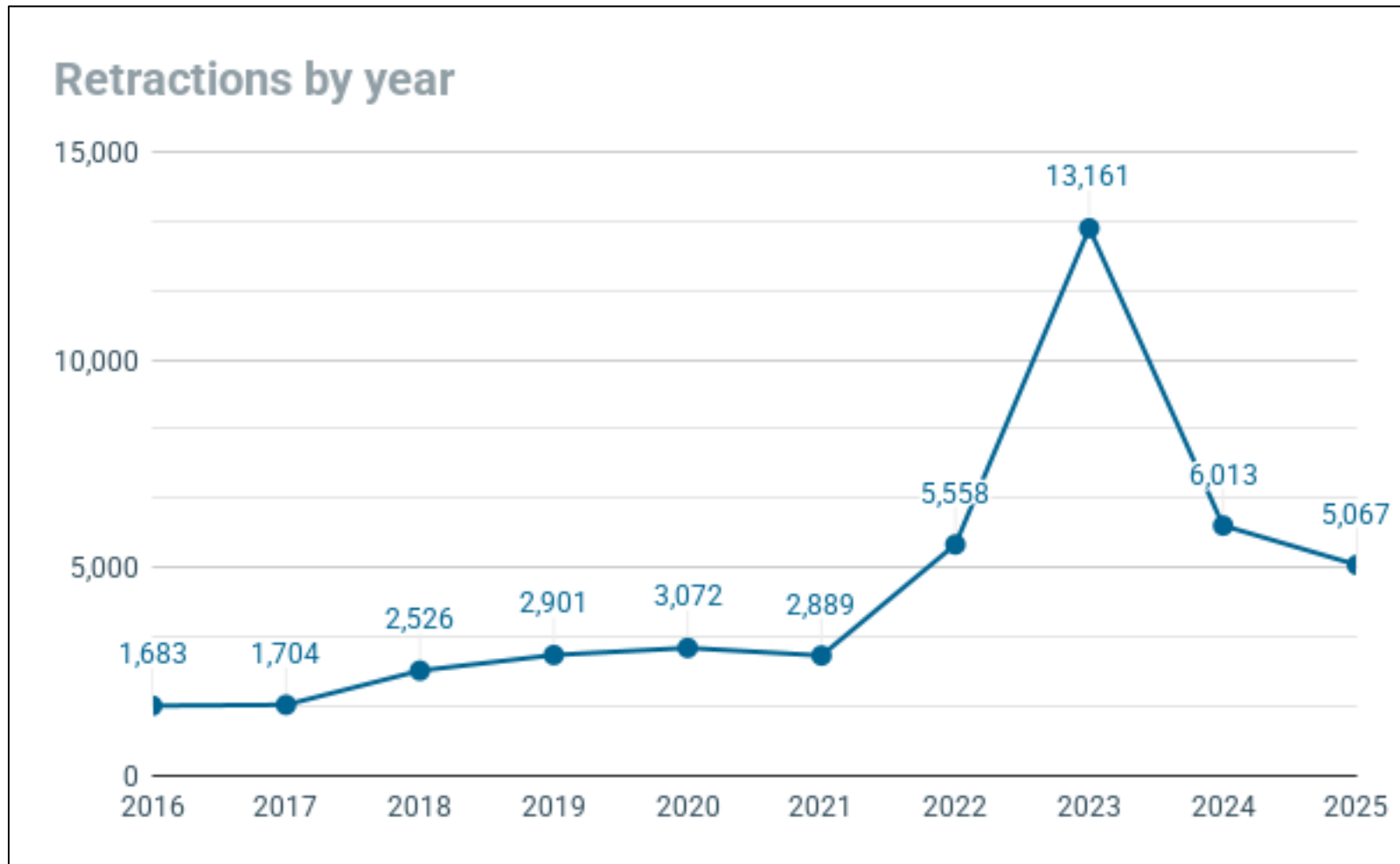


PAY**Three Million Seventy-Nine Thousand Three Hundred Sixteen

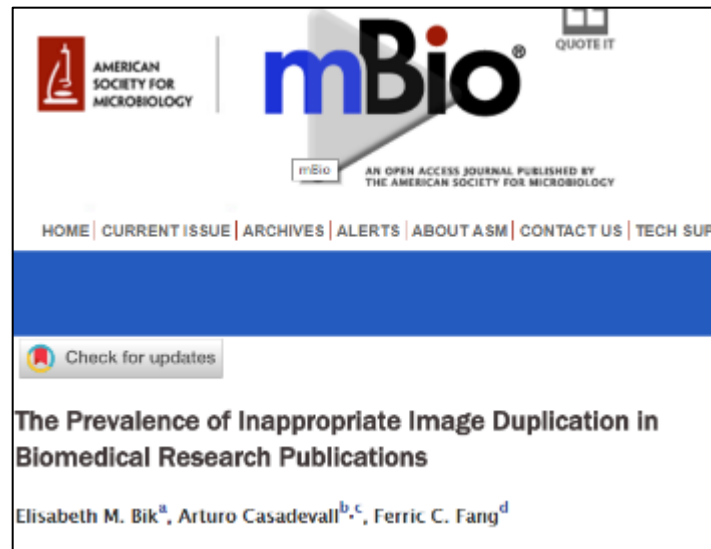
\$*3,079,316.00 USD

How a star psychiatrist at the University of Illinois at Chicago violated protocols and put children at risk.

On The Rise



Two Percent?



“Overall, 3.8% of published papers contained problematic figures, with at least half exhibiting features suggestive of deliberate manipulation. The prevalence of papers with problematic images has risen markedly during the past decade.”

AI Has Entered The Chat

World Bank report 'removed for review' of nonexistent references after Retraction Watch inquiry

A World Bank report on obesity trends with at least 14 fake references in the text has been removed from the website and is being reviewed by the organization following a Retraction Watch inquiry.



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NEWS | 07 November 2025

Preprint site arXiv is banning computer-science reviews: here's why

The repository is taking steps to tackle a surge in low quality, AI-generated content.

By [Davide Castelvecchi](#)

Who Retracts Most?

The Retraction Watch Leaderboard

Who has the most retractions? Here's our unofficial list (see notes on methodology), which we'll update as more information comes to light:

1. [Joachim Boldt](#) (236) See also: [Editors-in-chief statement](#), [our coverage](#)
2. [Yoshitaka Fujii](#) (172) See also: [Final report of investigating committee](#), [our reporting](#), [additional coverage](#)
3. [Yoshihiro Sato](#) (124) See also: [our coverage](#)
4. [Hironobu Ueshima](#) (124) See also: [our coverage](#)
5. [Ali Nazari](#) (104) See also: [our coverage](#)
6. [A Salar Elahi](#) (92) See also: [our coverage](#)
7. [Jun Iwamoto](#) (91) See also: [our coverage](#)
8. [Swen N Piper](#) (58) See also: [our coverage](#)
9. [Diederik Stapel](#) (58) See also: [our coverage](#)
10. [Yuhji Saitoh](#) (56) See also: [our coverage](#)

JAMA
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Original Investigation | Medical Journals and Publishing

Retracted Randomized Clinical Trials From Superretractors and Top-Cited Scientists With Multiple Retractions

Chunwei Lyu, MSc; Mino Matbouriahi, MSc; Florian Naudet, MD, PhD; John P. A. Ioannidis, MD, DSc; Ioana Alina Cristea, PhD

No Field is an Island

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2. Thompson GE, Rorie DR. Functional anatomy of the brachial plexus sheath. *Anesthesiology* 1983;59:117-22.
3. Flores CB, Ramirez A, Viorone G, Koria JM, Beck RJ, Buckmaster CC. Gross anatomy of the brachial plexus sheath in human cadavers. *Reg Anesth Pain Med* 2006;3:164-9.
4. Partridge BL, Katz J, Benirschke K. Functional anatomy of the brachial plexus sheath: implications for anesthesia. *Anesthesiology* 1987;66:743-7.
5. Klansal O, Smauder O, Thompson GE, Tilting T, Hal PK, Rotter JS, Brodal F, Bostik H, Metland KR, Fosse ET. Distribution of local anesthetic in axillary plexus block: a clinical and magnetic resonance imaging study. *Anesthesiology* 2002;96:1318-24.
6. De Andres J, Solé-Blanch X. Ultrasound in the practice of brachial plexus anesthesia. *Reg Anesth Pain Med* 2002;27:77-89.

NOTICE OF RETRACTION

The manuscripts cited below are now retracted. After their publication, the editorial office of *Anesthesia & Analgesia* was notified by the Baystate Medical Center that their investigation revealed that Dr. Scott Reuben fabricated data reported in the referenced articles, and that all fabricated data were created under the sole control of Dr. Reuben.

The following manuscripts were specifically cited, and are hereby withdrawn:

1. Reuben SS, Connelly NR. Postarthroscopic meniscus repair analgesia with intraarticular ketorolac or morphine. *Anesth Analg* 1996;82:1036-9.
2. Reuben SS, Connelly NR, Macosick H. Postoperative analgesia with controlled-release oxycodone for outpatient anterior cruciate ligament surgery. *Anesth Analg* 1999;88:1286-91.
3. Reuben SS, Reuben JP. Brachial plexus anesthesia with verapamil and/or morphine. *Anesth Analg* 2000;91:379-83.
4. Reuben SS, Connelly NR. Postoperative analgesic effects of celecoxib or rofecoxib after spinal fusion surgery. *Anesth Analg* 2000;91:1221-5.
5. Reuben SS, Sternberg RB, Macosick H, Manikantan P. An evaluation of the analgesic efficacy of intravenous regional anesthesia with lidocaine and ketorolac using a forearm versus upper arm tourniquet. *Anesth Analg* 2002;95:457-60.
6. Reuben SS, Pristas R, Dixon D, Faraji S, Madabhushi L, Wenner S. The incidence of complex regional pain syndrome after fasciectomy for Dupuytren's contracture: a prospective observational study of four anesthetic techniques. *Anesth Analg* 2006;102:499-503.
7. Reuben SS, Buvanendran A, Kroin JS, Raghunathan K. The analgesic efficacy of celecoxib, pregabalin, and their combination for spinal fusion surgery. *Anesth Analg* 2006;103:1271-7.
8. Reuben SS, Ekman EF, Charon D. Evaluating the analgesic efficacy of administering celecoxib as a component of multimodal analgesia for outpatient anterior cruciate ligament reconstruction surgery. *Anesth Analg* 2007;105:222-7.
9. Reuben SS, Ekman EF. The effect of initiating a preventive multimodal analgesic regimen on long-term patient outcomes for outpatient anterior cruciate ligament reconstruction surgery. *Anesth Analg* 2007;105:228-32.
10. Reuben SS, Buvanendran A, Katz B, Kroin JS. A prospective randomized trial on the role of perioperative celecoxib administration for total knee arthroplasty: improving clinical outcomes. *Anesth Analg* 2008;106:1258-64.

Steven L. Shafer, MD
Editor-in-Chief
Anesthesia & Analgesia
shafer@anesandanalgesia.org
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1350 Case Report

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Raise standards for preclinical cancer research

C. Glenn Begley and Lee M. Ellis propose how methods, publications and incentives must change if patients are to benefit.

Efforts over the past decade to characterize the genetic alterations in human cancers have led to a better understanding of molecular drivers of this complex set of diseases. Although we in the cancer field hoped that this would lead to more effective drugs, historically, our ability to translate cancer research to clinical success has been remarkably low¹. Sadly, clinical

trials in oncology have the highest failure rate compared with other therapeutic areas. Given the high unmet need in oncology, it is understandable that barriers to clinical development may be lower than for other disease areas, and a larger number of drugs with suboptimal preclinical validation will enter oncology trials. However, this low success rate is not sustainable or acceptable, and

investigators must reassess their approach to translating discovery research into greater clinical success and impact.

Many factors are responsible for the high failure rate, notwithstanding the inherently difficult nature of this disease. Certainly, the limitations of preclinical tools such as inadequate cancer-cell-line and mouse models² make it difficult for even ▶

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Fraudulent Publishing in the Mathematical Sciences

Ilka Agricola, Lynn Heller, Wil Schilders, Moritz Schubotz, Peter Taylor, Luis Vega

September 2025

The Role of The Sleuths

Meet the scientific sleuths: More than two dozen who've had an impact on the scientific literature

Over the years, we have written about a number of the sleuths who, on their own time and often at great risks to their careers or finances, have looked for issues in the scientific literature. Here's a sampling:



- **Anna Abalkina**, the creator of the [Retraction Watch Hijacked Journal Checker](#), has revealed [how paper mills work](#).

- **David Allison** and **Andrew Brown** tried getting journals to correct or retract two dozen papers with obvious errors. [The results weren't pretty](#).



Elies Bik

Elisabeth "Eagle Eyes" Bik showed that [one in 25 papers she examined had evidence of inappropriate image manipulation](#). Our 2019 profile for [The Scientist](#).

- **Dorothy Bishop's** "eye for detail has given her a second career and a new following."
- **Mark J. Bolland**, **Alison Avenell**, **Greg D. Gamble**, and **Andrew Grey** demonstrated that the work of Yoshihiro Sato — who now holds a prominent place on our [leaderboard](#) — [was deeply flawed](#). Grey even published a letter about how bad one of the retraction notices was. More on this case [from Kai Kupferschmidt at Science](#).

- **Michael Dougherty** has become the [philosophy plagiarism police](#).



Michael Dougherty

- **Malte Elson** and **Patrick Markey** paid a price for [being right about problems in a study of violent video games](#).
- **James Heathers** — who calls himself a "data thug" — and **Nick Brown** have been central to the [Brian Wansink saga](#), and have [created tools that others can use to detect problems](#).
- Three years ago, **Joshua Kalla** and **David Broockman** began to think something wasn't right with a paper in Science about how best to change people's minds about same-sex marriage. [They were right, and the retraction captured international attention](#).
- **John Loadsman** has [identified numerous cases of misconduct in the anesthesiology literature](#), including a case in which a researcher was found to have committed misconduct in [more than 140 papers](#).
- **Michèle B. Nuijten**, along with **Chris Hartgerink**, [created "statcheck,"](#) which automatically spots statistical mistakes in psychology papers, making it significantly easier to find flaws.
- The grad student who raised concerns about the work of Cornell psychology researcher Robert Sternberg was **Brendan O'Connor**. [Another "data thug" is born](#).
- **Mike Rossner** has made a name for himself as an [image manipulation detective for more than a decade](#).
- **David Sanders** was sued for his efforts, and won — but [did not emerge unscathed](#).
- **Artemisia Stricta** — a pseudonym — has [uncovered hundreds of problematic papers](#) by researchers including one on our [leaderboard](#).
- **Deborah Weber-Wulff** is a key member of VroniPlag Wiki, a [group of German-language scientists who have been scanning for — and publicly tracking — cases of plagiarism](#).

What Are Journals Doing?

THE WATCHDOGS

To catch misconduct, journals are hiring research integrity czars

By [Ivan Oransky](#) and [Adam Marcus](#) Nov. 21, 2018

[Reprints](#)



HYACINTH EMPINADO/STAT

Watchdogs Defanged


Exclusive: U.S. federal research integrity teams take hits with departures

Amid efforts by the Trump administration to “put an end to fraudulent and wasteful spending” and “enhance” accountability, two key offices charged with investigating fraud and holding scientists and institutions accountable for federal spending have seen top leadership depart.

At the National Science Foundation’s Office of Inspector General (OIG), the changes start at the top: Inspector General Allison Lerner is departing, and Megan Wallace, currently assistant inspector general for investigations at NSF, will become the acting inspector general, effective March 1.



The Retraction “Penalty” – Or Not?



SCIENTIFIC
REPORTS

OPEN

The Retraction Penalty: Evidence from the Web of Science

Susan Feng Lu¹, Ginger Zhe Jin², Brian Uzzi³ & Benjamin Jones⁴

SUBJECT AREAS:
COMPLEX NETWORKS
STATISTICAL PHYSICS
EVOLUTION OF LANGUAGE
OUTCOMES RESEARCH

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¹Simon School of Business, University of Rochester, ²University of Maryland & NBER, ³Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University & NICO, ⁴Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University & NBER.

Scientific articles are retracted at increasing rates, with the highest rates among top journals. Here we show that a single retraction triggers citation losses through an author’s prior body of work. Compared to closely-matched control papers, citations fall by an average of 6.9% per year for each prior publication. These chain reactions are sustained on authors’ papers (a) published up to a decade earlier and (b) connected within the authors’ own citation network by up to 4 degrees of separation from the retracted publication. Importantly, however, citation losses among prior work disappear when authors self-report the error. Our analyses and results span the range of scientific disciplines.

Lowering the Stigma

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NEWS | 10 March 2026

Keep calm and be transparent: advice from scientists who retracted their papers

Retractions correct the scientific record, but they have stigma attached to them. Some in the research community want that to change.

By [Sofia Caetano Avritzer](#)



**CTRL-Z
AWARD**

Recognizing the courage
to correct or retract
published work.