



Response Letter to the Editor Regarding “A Survey of Iranian Retracted Publications Indexed in PubMed”

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Dear Editor-in-Chief

We are honored to know that our paper about Iranian retracted publications indexed in PubMed (1) has attracted the attention of the scientific community. We think that some explanations are necessary for responding to the raised comments (2).

As can be seen in the title and general purpose of our study (1), this research was conducted with the aim of reviewing and presenting a descriptive report on the status of retracted articles affiliated to Iranian authors in PubMed database. The questions of our study are clearly expressed in methods section, and the points of distinction and innovation of our study in comparison with studies performed up to that time on retracted articles of Iran are also mentioned at the end of the introduction, somehow specifying the framework and boundaries of the study. On the other hand, as you know, each phenomenon and topic can be examined from different perspectives. Therefore, the present research is not primarily aimed at identifying all the retracted articles from Iran, and it only addressed Iranian biomedical retracted articles in PubMed. Therefore, assessment of other databases such as Web of Science, Scopus and so forth has been outside the scope of our research.

With respect to adjusted analysis on growth of retracted articles, our research sought to examine

the current situation and the number of retracted articles of Iran in PubMed database in each year (1). As a result, determining the adjusted growth rate of the country's retracted articles and analytical comparisons with other countries have not been within the scope of our study; therefore, all findings are expressed in absolute terms. While the adjusted analysis can be useful, we believe that the absolute expression of the results provides a better insight into the current circumstances of Iran's retracted articles in the field of biomedicine because as stated in the concluding section of the article, “even one retracted publication is a lot!” and “persons, organizations, and countries are judged as doing an unethical behavior with retraction” (1).

Best regards

References

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