
Dear Colleagues,
Editors-in-Chief,
Editorial and Advisory Board,


As one can notice, the comparison of the published data is made according to the titles, authors and words included in the abstracts of the papers. However, we would like to emphasize that one of the above-mentioned papers is published as a NOTE (Mladenovska, Janevik IE, Glavas D, Kumbaradzi F, Goracinova K. Biodistribution studies of BSA loaded gelatin microspheres after peroral application. Int J Pharm. 2002;242(1-2):251-3”) and in fact it is a note presented at the 13th International Symposium on Microencapsulation, held on 5-7 Sept. 2001 in Angers, France. Notes from that Symposium were published both in the Book of abstracts and in a special issue of the International Journal of Pharmaceutics with a designation on the cover page that this issue is dedicated to the presented scientific works at the above-mentioned Symposium. We would like to emphasize once again that the status of this paper is a NOTE, not an original scientific paper.

The status of a NOTE presented at the Symposium does not prohibit publishing of the paper in extended form, with detailed and extended research data confirmed with other methods and procedures, in a Journal chosen by the authors, which in our case was done.

In this respect, the original scientific paper “Mladenovska K, Janevik IE, Glavas MD, Kumbaradzi, EF, Goracinova K. Biodistribution of 131I-BSA loaded gelatin microspheres after peroral application to BALB/c mice - particle size study. Acta Pharm. 2003;53(3):187-97” was published as a complete paper with sufficient in vitro, not only in vivo studies, and with results obtained with the methods and procedures, which had not been mentioned in the Note of the Symposium, and with all details from the methods and results shortly or not described in the Note. In our opinion, this excludes the possibility, these papers to serve as an example in the paper published in your Journal. In addition, many times so far we have been asked by the Organizing committee...
to reorganize the notes into the original scientific papers for publishing.

We perform our scientific work respecting all the recognized standards and criteria, and we build our reputation studiously, working hardly and facing lot of obstacles and challenges. Because of that and because we respect the scientific work of all our colleagues, we kindly ask you to correct this mistake in your paper appropriately and in the same time to inform us about your activity in this respect. We are available for any additional information.

Sincerely,

Prof. Katerina Goracinova, PhD. Faculty of Pharmacy, University “Ss Cyril and Methodious”. e-mail: kago@ff.ukim.edu.mk

Ass. Prof. Kristina Mladenovska, PhD. Faculty of Pharmacy, University “Ss Cyril and Methodious”. e-mail: kml@ff.ukim.edu.mk

Ass. Prof. Marija Glavas Dodov, PhD. Faculty of Pharmacy, University “Ss Cyril and Methodious”. e-mail: magl@ff.ukim.edu.mk

Emilija Janevik Ivanova, PhD, Superior scientist. Institute of pathophysiology and nuclear medicine Faculty of medicine, University “Ss Cyril and Methodious”. e-mail: ejanevik@yahoo.com

Emilija Fredro Kumbaradzi, PhD, ex professor at the Faculty of Pharmacy, University “Ss Cyril and Methodious”, now employed at the Department for Drug Design and Development in Apotex, Canada.


Acta pharmaceutica (Zagreb, Croatia), Svjetlana Luterotti (Editor-in-Chief), Faculty of Pharmacy and Biochemistry, University of Zagreb, A. Kovacica 1, HR-10000 Zagreb, Croatia. E-mail: sluter@pharma.hr

Dear Svjetlana,


Authors of the paper send me a letter with explanation how it was happened. Because the flow chart of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) suggests response from the Editorial Board of the Journal in which duplicate was published, I am resending you a letter with a copy of the published paper in Maced J Med Sci.

I hope that you will solve highly similar citation and inform me about the final result.

Sincerely,

Prof. Dr. Mirko Spiroski,
Macedonian Journal of Medical Sciences, Editor-in-Chief.

Dear Prof. Dr. Mirko Spiroski,

Thank you for your e-mails. The Editorial Board (EB) of Acta Pharmaceutica has discussed on the matter of duplicate publishing of the article authored by Mladenovska et al. We analyzed both articles carefully. The articles differ significantly in contents and volume. In vitro experiments were included in the second article published in Acta Pharmaceutica as an original research paper. Even the abstracts are somewhat different. However, the authors should have cited their first article (published as a note in Int. J. Pharm.) but, unfortunately, they did not so. EB will communicate with authors as well.

It is noteworthy to say that just to prevent such awkward situations the policy of Acta Pharmaceutica changed from the end of 2005. Namely, now the authors of each article have to sign the Authors Agreement Form at the time of submittance. By this sign the authors guarantee the following: “The authors warrant that the material submitted to Acta Pharmaceutica is original and has not been published and is not under consideration for publication (except in the form of 1-page abstract or as part of academic thesis), whole or in part, in print or electronic format, in any other journal. This manuscript is being considered with the understanding it is submitted on an exclusive basis. The author will alert the Editor if the manuscript includes subjects about which the authors have published a previous report or have submitted a related report to another publication. Any such report must be referred to and referenced in the new paper.”

In case of any further questions do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
Prof. Dr. S. Luterotti,
Editor-in-Chief,
Acta Pharmaceutica


Déjà vu database,
Tara Long and Angela George
tara.c.long@gmail.com
angelageorge17@gmail.com

Dear Tara and Angela,


I am sending you a copy of the letter with hope that you will verify this highly similar citation and inform me about the final decision.

Sincerely,
Prof. Dr. Mirko Spiroski
Macedonian Journal of Medical Sciences
Editor-in-Chief
http://www.mjms.ukim.edu.mk

Dear Dr. Spiroski,

I am a curator of the Déjà vu database. After a thorough analysis, I have changed the classification of Entry 21813 to “Update,” indicating that the later article is an update of the earlier and includes an expanded study methodology and corresponding results. You can find the updated entry here: http://spore.swmed.edu/dejavu/duplicate/21813/.

Thank you very much for your participation in the Déjà vu project, we appreciate your input. Please do not hesitate to e-mail me if you have any questions or comments. In addition, if you would like to provide a comment to be included in the database for this entry, please let me know and I will update it to reflect that. Again, thank you.

Sincerely,
Tara Long,
Déjà vu Team,
University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas. tara.c.long@gmail.com
http://spore.swmed.edu/dejavu


Letter to the Editor of MJMS,

I am writing you as a reaction to your article titled “Déjà vu - A report of highly similar citations in the biomedical scientific literature from the Republic of Macedonia”, published in Macedonian Journal of Medical Sciences 2 (2): 107-114, 2009.

I was very, very much disappointed when I read this paper by an author who does not make a difference between plagiarism, déjà vu, repeated publications of the same data by the same author/s, paper up-dating already published data, special future articles, review articles and original articles. To spare your time, the following is the definition of plagiarism taken from Oxford dictionary: “1) take and use the thoughts, inventions, etc. of another person as one’s own. 2) pass off the thoughts etc of another person as one’s own. (based on Greek plagion [a kidnapping].) Is an article updating published results by the same author plagiarism? Of course for those who know the meaning of the word plagiarism, updating published results, or special future article, or review article, are not considered plagiarism.

In your paper, among the 10 articles considered by you to be highly similar citation pairs, are two papers published by me, one titled “Hemoglobinopathies in Yugoslavia: An Update, published in HEMOGLOBIN, 16 (6): 531-544, 1992, under the heading Special feature articles, the other titled “Thalassemias and Other Hemoglobinopathies in the Republic of Macedonia”, published in the same journal HEMOGLOBIN, 31 (1): 1-15, 2007, as an original article. If you have read the two articles, not only their titles, you would have not considered them as repeated publications of the same data.

In the first article published in 1992 I have
presented data on the epidemiology and molecular basis of hemoglobinopathies in Yugoslavia. It is stated that over the past 25 years, population surveys of more than 28,000 school children from all over the country, except Slovenia, have shown that the average incidence of b-thalassemia trait is ..., that over 250 b-thalassemia chromosomes have been studied, and in over 90% the molecular defect was determined..., that new form of db-thalassemia have been described..., that known and new abnormal hemoglobin have been characterized, etc. In the second article published 15 years later, i.e. in 2007, I have presented the results of over 40 years of studies of thalassemia and related disorders in the Republic of Macedonia. Data are presented from five population surveys carried on in 1966-67, 1971-74, 1980-82, 1983-85, and 1990-93 on a total of over 22,000 participants for the presence of b-thalassemia and/or abnormal hemoglobin. Data on the different forms of b-thalassemia and related disorders obtained from studies of over 2,000 patients with signs of hemolysis, cyanosis and methemoglobinemia are presented. Data on the incidence of a-thalassemia based on screening of over 9,000 newborns are also presented. Data on over 15 different forms of b-thal, including two described for the first time, five forms of a-thal, 14 different hemoglobin variants of which two described for the first time are presented. Are these two articles plagiarism, repeated publications of the same data? What are they? Here are the comments of the reviewers for the paper published in 2007. Reviewer 1. The paper by G.D. Efremov is a thorough and very interesting review of all the hemoglobinopathies observed during a screening of various categories of population in the present Republic of Macedonia. In this rather small country it is fascinating to observe such a variety of mutations, reflecting the complex historical intrication and the multiple movements of populations, through migrations, invasions or simple migrations. This point could be still more emphasized and investigated... Reviewer 2. The paper by Georgi Efremov nicely summarizes the incidence of hemoglobinopathies in the F.Y.R. of Macedonia. This is a valuable study, since proper identification of the molecular basis of genetic disorders is beneficial towards prevention and diagnosis...

Knowing that the journal you are the Editor-in-chief has published the first three numbers, only, I wonder how would you evaluate articles published in MJMS, you are the Editor-in-chief, after 10-20 years.

Dear Editor-in-chief,

I am expecting deep, very deep, apology from you.

Professor Dr. Georgi D. Efremov
explanation how it was happened. Because the flow chart of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) suggests response from the Editorial Board of the Journal in which duplicate (highly similar citation) was published, I am resending you a letter with a copy of the published paper in Maced J Med Sci.


Dear Mr Spiroski,

You should read the papers and not only look on the title...they are hundreds of papers with somewhat identical titles but with very different contents. Perhaps should I send to you paper to review since you seems to be so competent in all the fields. Your journal seems to me to be one of this not interesting side products asking to a computer to replace a brain.

Sincerely yours,
Dr H.Wajcman
Editor-in-Chief, Hemoglobin

I hope that you will solve highly similar citation and inform me about the final result.

Sincerely,
Prof. Dr. Mirko Spiroski
Macedonian Journal of Medical Sciences
Editor-in-Chief