

Third Letter to the Editor on “Déjà vu - A report of highly similar citations in the biomedical scientific literature from the Republic of Macedonia”, Spiroski M. Maced J Med Sci. 2009;2(2):107-114.

Dear Prof. Spiroski,

I read with great interest Your journal. The following text is my answer concerning Your paper in MJMS from June 15th.

In the paper “**Déjà vu - A Report of Highly Similar Citations in the Biomedical Scientific Literature from the Republic of Macedonia**”, You’ve published in Your journal: Maced J Med Sci. 2009 Jun 15; 2(2):107-114, the abstracts of two my papers published in **Prilozi** in 2004 and 2005 are indicated as **unverified similar** and for this reason the papers as **putative unethical duplicate**.

That is not true and is ill-founded. Here’s the explanation:

You expressed:

1. “ the similar investigation about erythropoietin production (epo) was published in patients with multiple myeloma (Prilozi, 2004), and in patients with malignant lymphoma (Prilozi, 2005).” (page 111, left column, ID35293).

It is true and wholly justified. It is no problem at all, except for those ones who do not know that they are two completely different diseases with different clinical picture, therapy, etiopathogenesis, evolution and prognosis. It is enough You only to apply the reference under number 34 You’ve cited in Your discussion (page 112, right column): Rifai et al, 2008, in which it is emphasized that improperly and wrongly in Déjà vu database are identified as potentially unethical duplicate similar studies, but for a different analyte, drug, sex, organ and certainly diseases.

I’m asking how it would be identified (probably unethical triplicate) the paper which examines the erythropoietin production in patients with breast cancer or another solid tumors. Should we not publish any paper about that problem, only to be ethically clean, correct and not to read about ourselves in such a paper: paper-report; and this

problem is so much relevant for the etiology and therapy of the anemia in all malignant diseases: **Nonsense**.

2. “Several papers with highly similar citation pairs are from the same author with the very similar or identical results (.....,, ID 35293,) published in different journals.” (page 110, right column).

This statement is **not true** for my papers. My two papers (ID 35293) are not published in different journals, but in the same journal in two successive years (Prilozi 2004 and 2005). It is more than obvious that the results are not similar let alone identical. In contrary, each abstract and paper contains the necessary specific qualities for the given disease. It is enough to read the abstracts or the papers to see that. **Here I do not see any problem of similarity of both papers.**

3. Similarity ratio for my papers was found to be 0.51. I’d like to remind that in the paragraph “Material and Methods” of Your paper, it is stated that the similarity is **significant** for values greater than 0.56.

In conclusion I’d like to say that a high level of professionalism and responsibility are indispensable in order public written words not to have **Primum nocere** - our typical ethnomortality. I hope and I strongly wish in one of the next issues of Your journal to find an article which critically deals with the drawbacks of the Déjà vu database and contains proposals for their improvement as requested on their website. That would be very useful for the authors in terms of protecting them from wasting their time with irrational and imposed correspondence.

Sincerely,
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Letter to the Editor on “Erythropoietin production in patients with malignant lymphoma”, Kostova G, Siljanovski N. Prilozi. 2005;26(2):157-68.

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Dear acad. Polenakovic,

As an Editor-in-Chief of Macedonian Journal of Medical Sciences, I reported results from the Déjà vu database and published a paper: Spiroski M. Déjà vu - A Report of Highly Similar Citations in the Biomedical Scientific Literature from the Republic of Macedonia. *Maced J Med Sci.* 2009;2(2):107-114.

One of the 10 reported computationally identified highly similar citation pair from Republic of Macedonia was published in your journal (Déjà vu ID pair 35293):

Kostova G, Siljanovski N. [Inadequate erythropoietin production (epo) in patients with multiple myeloma] *Prilozi.* 2004;25(1-2):53-66. PMID:15735535. Déjà vu ID:68703, and

Kostova G, Siljanovski N. Erythropoietin production in patients with malignant lymphoma. *Prilozi.* 2005;26(2):157-68. PMID:16400237 Déjà vu ID:68702.

Author 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 her letter with a copy of the published paper in *Maced J Med Sci.*

I hope that you will analyse computationally identified highly similar citation pair of this author and inform me about your decision.

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