

Notice of retraction

Joos L, Eryüksel E, Brutsche MH.

*Functional genomics and gene microarrays –
the use in research and clinical medicine.*

Swiss Med Wkly 2003;133:31–8.

Dear Sir,

We hereby retract the above-mentioned review article on gene chip technology on grounds of unintended plagiarism. Due to negligence including a communication error between authors, the article contained unrefereed content of an excellent review in the

field by T. J. Aitman [1]. We offer our formal apologies for this error on our part.

Yours sincerely

Martin H. Brutsche, Corresponding Author

Reference

1 Aitman TJ. DNA microarrays in medical practice. *BMJ* 2001;323:611–5.

Comment

L. Joos and co-workers retract their review article on the use of functional genomics and gene microarrays. In doing so the authors are complying with a request from the Editorial Board of Swiss Medical Weekly. The facts of the matter are as follows. In breach of copyright, the authors in their review article adopted phrases from an article previously published by T. J. Aitman in the British Med-

ical Journal. Despite peer review of the manuscript and discussion at the weekly editorial conference, this fact escaped both the referees and the Editorial Board. The authorship of review articles involves negligible benefit in the academic assessment of clinical scientists, and no material advantage whatsoever. Neither novel ideas nor data have been misappropriated. We therefore accept the authors' explanation that the breach was due to negligence rather than malicious intent, and hence no further action by the Editorial

Board is required. We agree with the Editor of the British Medical Journal, however, that such wrongdoing is unacceptable.

We apologize to the author of the original review article and to the BMJ for this unfortunate occurrence, and thank the BMJ for drawing the matter to our attention.

*Andreas Schaffner,
Editor-in-Chief,
Swiss Medical Weekly*

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