

## SPUR Post-Publication Practices and Policy

SPUR issues post-publication notifications to address any changes to the version of record that include errors or omissions impacting readability, indexing, compliance with journal policy, or errors or concerns related to the validity or integrity of the article.

This document outlines SPUR's post-publication article correction, retraction, and removal policies. These policies and practices are based on *COPE Guidelines*<sup>1</sup> and the *2024 National Information Standards Organization's Recommended Practice for Communication of Retractions, Removals, and Expressions of Concern*<sup>2</sup>.

SPUR uses the following definitions for post-publication action and associated notifications:

- Correction/Addition: The author correcting an error of omission
- Errata: The publisher correcting an error of omission that occurred during the publication process and is no fault of the author
- Retraction: at the author's request or because an investigation has identified significant errors post-publication that affect the integrity of the science. For example:
  - There is a major scientific error that would invalidate the article's conclusions, for example, where there is clear evidence that findings are unreliable, either due to misconduct (e.g., data fabrication) or honest error (e.g., miscalculation or experimental error).
  - The findings have previously been published elsewhere without proper cross-referencing, permission, or justification (i.e., cases of redundant publication).
  - There are ethical issues such as plagiarism (appropriation of another person's ideas, processes, results, or words without giving appropriate credit, including those obtained through confidential review of others' manuscripts) or inappropriate authorship (e.g., "guest" authorship; see COPE discussion document<sup>3</sup>).
  - Unethical research has been reported.

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<sup>1</sup> "COPE." 2024, accessed August 2024, <https://publicationethics.org/>. Cope flowchart: <https://publicationethics.org/guidance/Flowcharts>

<sup>2</sup> NISO CREC Working Group. *Communication of Retractions, Removals, and Expressions of Concern (CREC)*. National Information Standards Organization (National Information Standards Organization, June 26, 2024). [https://groups.niso.org/higherlogic/ws/public/download/30869/NISO\\_RP-45-2024\\_CREC.pdf](https://groups.niso.org/higherlogic/ws/public/download/30869/NISO_RP-45-2024_CREC.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> *What constitutes authorship? COPE Discussion Document*. COPE June 024. [https://publicationethics.org/files/u7141/Authorship\\_DiscussionDocument\\_0\\_0.pdf](https://publicationethics.org/files/u7141/Authorship_DiscussionDocument_0_0.pdf)

## Providing a Post-Publication Request or Concern

Authors and readers who wish to make a post-publication correction, identify potential errors, or have concerns about misconduct or fraud in a published article in SPUR after publication must email the journal (spur@cur.org) with the following information:

- Title:
- Authors:
- DOI:
- Nature of change: Please select Correction, Addition, Retraction, Expression of Concern
- Provide specific details of the change/concern they wish the EIC to review (and describe its impact on the published work):

## SPUR Process To Address Post-Publication Concerns

The Editor-in-Chief will review the post-publication concern/request and determine the course of action to address it. Depending on the request or concern, the editor-in-chief and publisher may take the following steps to resolve it:

### Correction/Addition

Authors of material published in *SPUR* are fully responsible for promptly informing the journal if they become aware of any required corrections or additions after the publication of their manuscript. The Editor-in-Chief will determine the appropriate course of action using the *COPE guidelines* for reference.

If a correction is warranted, the following process, the Editor-in-Chief will ask the corresponding author to submit a correction via the SPUR submission system as a 'Correction' that will be published in the journal. The corresponding author should obtain approval from all coauthors before submitting or providing evidence that such approval has been solicited.

- Title: Correction to [*Title of article being corrected*]
- Author List: same as the original article
- Citation including DOI of article being corrected
- Body of text that provides sufficient details on what is being corrected.
  - The correction may include references but should not include any other sections found in an article.

### Errata

If an error was made during the journal's production process, the journal will publish an Errata in the style of the correction (see above) to correct its mistake and update the necessary metadata and files to address the error.

### Retraction

Articles that contain seriously flawed or erroneous data such that their findings and conclusions cannot be relied upon may be retracted to correct the scientific record. Therefore, articles may be retracted for scientific or ethical reasons and may be requested by the author(s) or the journal Editor(s).

The Editor-in-Chief will investigate all issues that may result in a retraction according to industry best practices and following the *COPE Guidelines*. The Editor-in-Chief will consult the publisher, the article's authors, handling editor, reviewers, and other interested parties, such as the author's institution, as necessary. The journal will make every effort to contact authors using the email addresses provided at the time of publication of the retraction notice so they have the opportunity to address all concerns.

If a retraction is warranted, the journal will take the following action.

- Notification of the authors and, if necessary, any other relevant bodies (such as the author's institution, funding agencies, and the like) before publication of the retraction notice.
- Publication of an open-to-read retraction notice written by the EIC and Publisher that explains why the article is being retracted
- The article's metadata will be revised to include "RETRACTED:" in the title.
- The PDF file will be watermarked to show that the article has been retracted: "RETRACTED:" The date of retraction will be added to the running head, so it states "RETRACTED ON [DATE]."
- Third-party databases will be notified, and the relevant updates will be provided for their records.

### Removal

The deletion of the version of the record is rare and only occurs in exceptional circumstances. Removal of a version of the record will only be taken when legally necessary, a risk to privacy (there has been a violation of the privacy of a research subject), or if the availability of the published content poses public health risks. In such circumstances:

- The abstract and full text of the article (if displayed) will be removed from the journal website. A brief statement explaining why the article has been removed will be added in place of the abstract
- The publication title, author list, and other relevant metadata will be retained, such as publication date, copyright, and data availability statements.