

# RETRACTION, CORRECTION, AND UPDATE POLICY

## *Pollution and Diseases — International Scientific Journal*

<https://pollution-diseases.org>

This policy outlines the procedures for correcting, updating, or retracting published content in *Pollution and Diseases*. The journal adheres to the **COPE Retraction Guidelines** and is committed to maintaining the integrity, accuracy, and permanence of the scholarly record.

### 1. Principles

- Corrections and retractions exist to maintain the reliability of the scientific record.
- Decisions are based on **evidence, transparency, and ethical standards**, not on author status or institutional affiliation.
- All notices are freely accessible, linked to the original article, and indexed with **CrossRef DOIs**.

### 2. Types of Post-Publication Updates

The journal uses the following categories:

#### 2.1. Correction (Erratum or Author Correction)

Issued when:

- the published article contains minor errors,
- errors do not affect the overall findings or conclusions,
- typographical mistakes, mislabeled figures, or minor inaccuracies are identified.

Corrections are published as a separate notice with their own DOI and linked to the original article.

#### 2.2. Publisher Correction

Issued when the journal is responsible for the error (e.g., production, formatting, metadata).

#### 2.3. Retraction

Retraction is issued when:

- data are unreliable due to misconduct or honest error;
- evidence of fabrication or falsification is found;
- plagiarism or unethical research practices occurred;
- the work has been previously published elsewhere (duplicate publication);
- authorship is fraudulent or improper;
- major conflicts of interest were hidden;
- human or animal ethics violations are confirmed.

Retraction notices:

- clearly state the reasons,
- identify who is retracting the article (authors, editors, or both),
- remain linked to both the original and the DOI record,
- never remove the original article (only mark it as retracted).

#### 2.4. Expression of Concern

Issued when:

- suspicion of misconduct exists but investigation is incomplete;
- credible evidence of a problem is present but inconclusive;
- institutional investigations are ongoing.

Expressions of Concern remain until the case is resolved and are replaced by a Correction or Retraction.

#### 2.5. Addendum

Published when authors wish to update the article with additional clarifications that do not change results.

### 3. Retraction Procedures

The journal follows **COPE flowcharts** for handling suspected misconduct.

#### 3.1. Investigation

When editors are informed of problems, they:

- assess the evidence;
- contact authors for explanation;
- consult reviewers or experts if needed;
- contact institutions if misconduct is likely.

Investigations aim to be fair, unbiased, and confidential.

### 3.2. Author Involvement

Authors are notified before any public notice is issued and may:

- provide explanations,
- supply raw data,
- respond to concerns.

Failure to respond may result in retraction.

### 3.3. Basis for Retraction

Retractions are based on:

- confirmed unethical behavior,
- unreliable data,
- invalid findings due to methodological errors,
- legal or ethical violations.

Retractions are not used for:

- disagreements among authors,
- minor errors,
- negative criticism of an article,
- low citation counts.

### 3.4. Retraction Notice Content

Each retraction notice includes:

- full bibliographic detail of the article;
- reasons for retraction;
- statement identifying whether authors, editors, or publisher initiated the retraction;
- a new DOI linked to the original article.

The original PDF is watermarked or labeled "RETRACTED".

## 4. Corrections Procedures

### 4.1. Author or Editor Identification of Error

If authors discover an error, they must immediately inform the journal.

### 4.2. Evaluation

Editors determine whether the error requires:

- minor correction,
- major correction,
- or retraction.

### 4.3. Publication of Correction

Corrections are issued promptly and linked with CrossRef metadata so indexing services (Scopus, Google Scholar, Web of Science) update their records.

## 5. Withdrawal Policy

### 5.1. Author Withdrawal Before Acceptance

A manuscript may be withdrawn before acceptance with a written request from the corresponding author.

### 5.2. Withdrawal After Acceptance

After acceptance, withdrawal is discouraged and requires strong justification.

The editorial team may reject withdrawal requests if publication is imminent or ethical concerns exist.

### 5.3. Unauthorized Withdrawal

Failure to communicate with the journal (e.g., ignoring revision requests) may result in:

- manuscript removal,
- notification to authors' institutions,
- temporary submission ban.

## 6. Indexing and Metadata of Retractions and Corrections

The journal ensures:

- CrossRef DOIs for all corrections, retractions, and notices;
- permanent accessibility of notices;
- indexing in academic databases;
- version control to preserve transparency.

## 7. Transparency and Permanence

- The journal does **not remove** published content.
- Retracted articles remain available, clearly marked.
- All updates are recorded permanently.

## 8. Appeals

Authors may appeal decisions by submitting evidence-based justifications.

Appeals are reviewed by editorial members not involved in the original decision.

## Conclusion

The *Pollution and Diseases* Retraction & Correction Policy ensures that the scholarly record remains accurate, transparent, and ethically sound. By adhering to COPE and international publishing standards, the journal maintains the highest level of academic integrity.