**Updating Published Papers**

Metro Infectious Disease Consultants recognizes our responsibility to correct scientifically relevant errors or ethical issues that have been brought to our attention. To offer transparency regarding any changes for our authors and readers, we have the following standardized criteria in place for updates to any of our published papers.

***Direct update***

Direct updates are updates made directly to the publication and can be completed in certain situations (please refer to our correction reference guide) if deemed by the Editorial Office to be a reasonable request. Once approved, the paper will be updated and re-published on our website. Following this, all relevant indexing databases will be notified to ensure that the database versions have also been revised.

***Corrections***

Metro Infectious Disease Consultants distinguishes between *Minor* and *Major* corrections.

* *Minor corrections* address issues that do not impact the scientific content of an article but require an updated version to be uploaded to the version of the record (VoR). Should this update be approved, it will be accompanied by the addition of a footnote on the pdf version and the addition of a “correction statement” located in the back matter of the website version. A minor correction will not be accompanied by a separate published correction notice.
* *Major corrections* aim to address issues and errors that could affect the scientific interpretation of an article. Once approved, the paper will be updated and re-published on our website, along with the publication of a *correction*. This notice is a separate publication that links to the updated paper but is published in the most current issue of the journal. The *correction* notifies all readers that a significant change has occurred to the paper and that the revised version is now available on the website.

Following both a *Minor* and *Major correction*, all relevant indexing databases will be notified to ensure that the database versions have also been revised. You will find further information on our publication update policy in our [**correction reference guideline**](https://res.mdpi.com/data/mdpi-correction-reference-guideline.pdf).

**Author Name Change Policy**
Some authors might wish to change their names following publication. In such cases, Metro Infectious Disease Consultants will update and republish the article and re-deliver the updated metadata to the appropriate indexing databases (please note that all updates are dependent upon the policies of the databases). Our teams are aware that name changes can be sensitive and/or private in nature for a variety of reasons that may include alignment with gender identity, marriage, divorce, or religious conversion. Therefore, to protect the author's identity, a Correction will not be published, and co-authors will not be notified. Authors should contact the journal’s Editorial Office with their name change request.

**Retractions**
Sometimes, a paper must be retracted from the body of research literature. This could be due to inadvertent errors made during the research process, gross ethical breaches, data fabrication, large amounts of plagiarism, or other reasons. Such articles threaten the integrity of scientific records and need to be retracted.

Metro Infectious Disease Consultants follows the recommendations of the [**Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) for retraction**](https://publicationethics.org/files/retraction-guidelines.pdf).

If a *Retraction* is published, the original publication is amended with a “RETRACTED” watermark but will still be available on the journal’s website for future reference. However, retracted articles should not be cited and used for further research, as they cannot be relied upon. *Retractions* are published using the same authorship and affiliation as the paper being retracted so that the notice and the original retracted paper can be properly found by readers within indexing databases. The *Retraction* notice will also be published in the journal's current issue. *Partial Retractions* might be published in cases where results are only partially wrong.

A paper will only be completely removed from PPID’s website and relevant indexing databases in very exceptional circumstances, where leaving it online would constitute an illegal act or be likely to lead to significant harm.

**Expression of Concern**
For complex, inconclusive, or prolonged situations, an *Expression of Concern* may be published. If investigations into alleged or suspected research misconduct have not yet been completed or prove to be inconclusive, an editor or journal may wish to publish an *Expression of Concern* detailing the points of concern and what actions, if any, are in progress.

**Comments and Replies**
If a reader has concerns about the reported results or methods used in a specific paper, they should approach the journal’s Editorial Office, and if deemed reasonable, a Comment may be submitted for potential publication. Comments are short letters to the editors from readers who would like to publicly question a specific paper.

Once a Comment is approved for further peer review, the Editorial Office will then approach the authors of the paper in question and invite them to prepare a Reply to this Comment. The Reply allows the authors to publicly respond to the concerns pointed out by the reader. If the reader’s complaints are substantiated, and the authors are not able to adequately respond to the concerns, a Correction of the original paper may be published, or the paper can be retracted entirely. If authors do not provide a response by the deadline provided or decide not to respond, the Comment may be published alongside a note that explains the absence of the Reply.

Both Comments and Replies will be reviewed to ensure that:

* The comment addresses significant aspects of the original paper without becoming essentially a new paper;
* the Reply responds directly to any concerns without becoming evasive;
* the tone of both publications is appropriate for a scientific journal.

While Comments can criticize the work, they should not criticize the work’s authors. Comments should not reiterate previously published disagreements. No more than one round of Comment and Reply will be facilitated where that discussion is from the same reader/s. Metro Infectious Disease Consultants only accepts the submission of Comments on articles that were published by Metro Infectious Disease Consultants.

Further discussion may be recommended in alternative forums, such as  [**https://sciprofiles.com/discussion-groups/public**](https://sciprofiles.com/discussion-groups/public).

**Contact**

Metro Infectious Disease Consultants works closely with authors and editors to promote adherence to core principles of publication ethics, as expressed by the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE). We encourage the use of COPE resources, which are available on their [website](https://publicationethics.org/guidance/Flowcharts). All manuscripts should conform to ethical standards. When we become aware of ethical issues, we are committed to investigating and taking necessary action to maintain the integrity of the literature.

Should you have any concerns about a published manuscript, we encourage you to use this [form](https://www.mdpi.com/about/ethics_contactform), providing as much information as possible. A member of our team will then be in touch.