

COCHRANE REVIEWS AS PRIVILEGED SOURCES TO REPORT MISCONDUCT BEHAVIOURS: AN INFORMATIVE CASE OF DUPLICATE PUBLICATION

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Background:

Unethical behaviours causing different types of bias have been extensively reported in biomedical literature. At the same time, quality of systematic reviews can be affected by misconduct in primary publications.

Objective

To describe several cases of serious duplicate publication detected as a result of a Cochrane review, raising potential synergies between publishers and The Cochrane Collaboration.

Methods

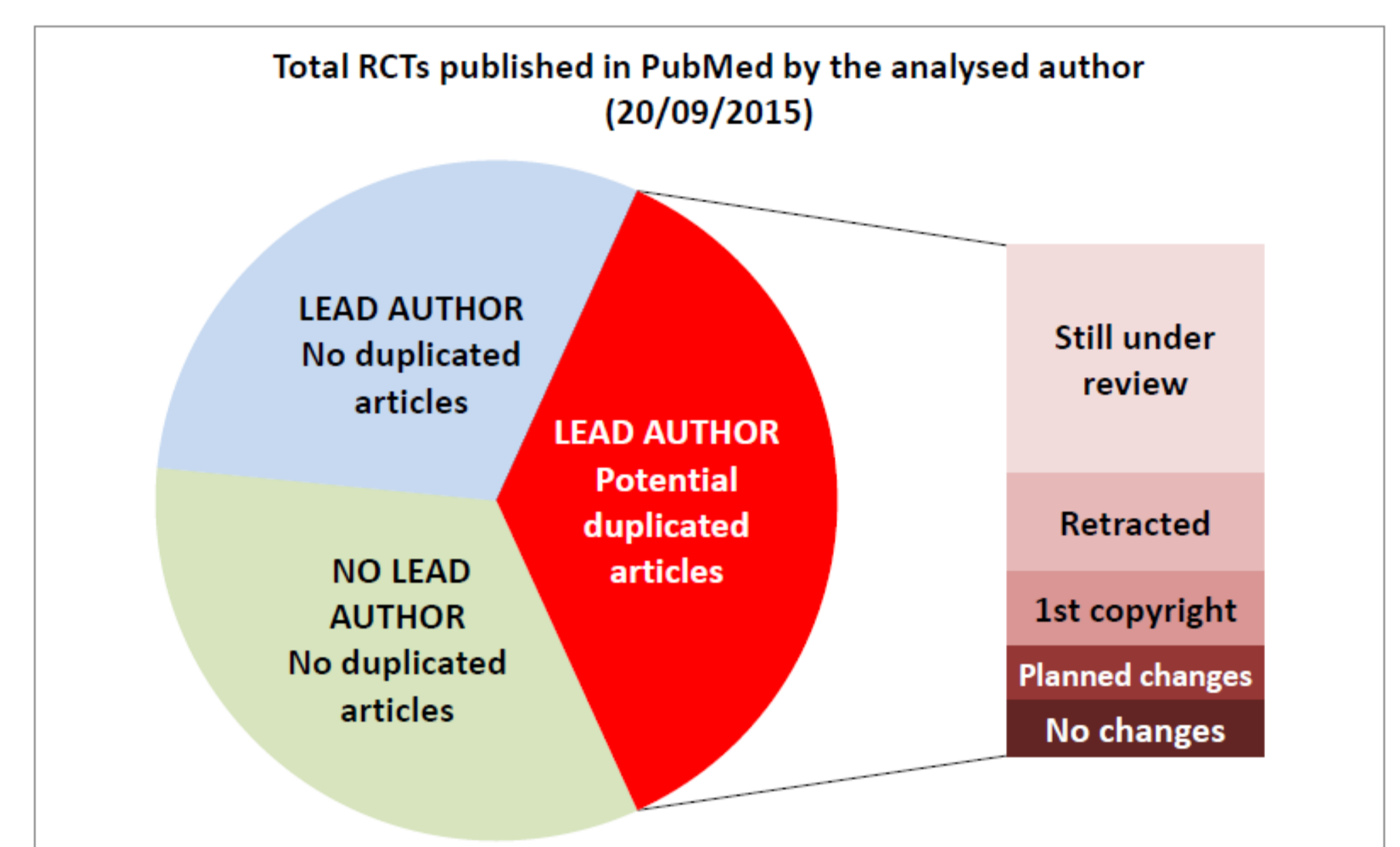
The searching results in a Cochrane review on hypertension were independently peer-reviewed and a serious case of duplicate publication was identified. Based on that, all randomized controlled trials (RCTs) published by the main author in PubMed (access on 20/09/2015) were also searched and double checked to exclude additional cases of duplication.

And here we present our findings...

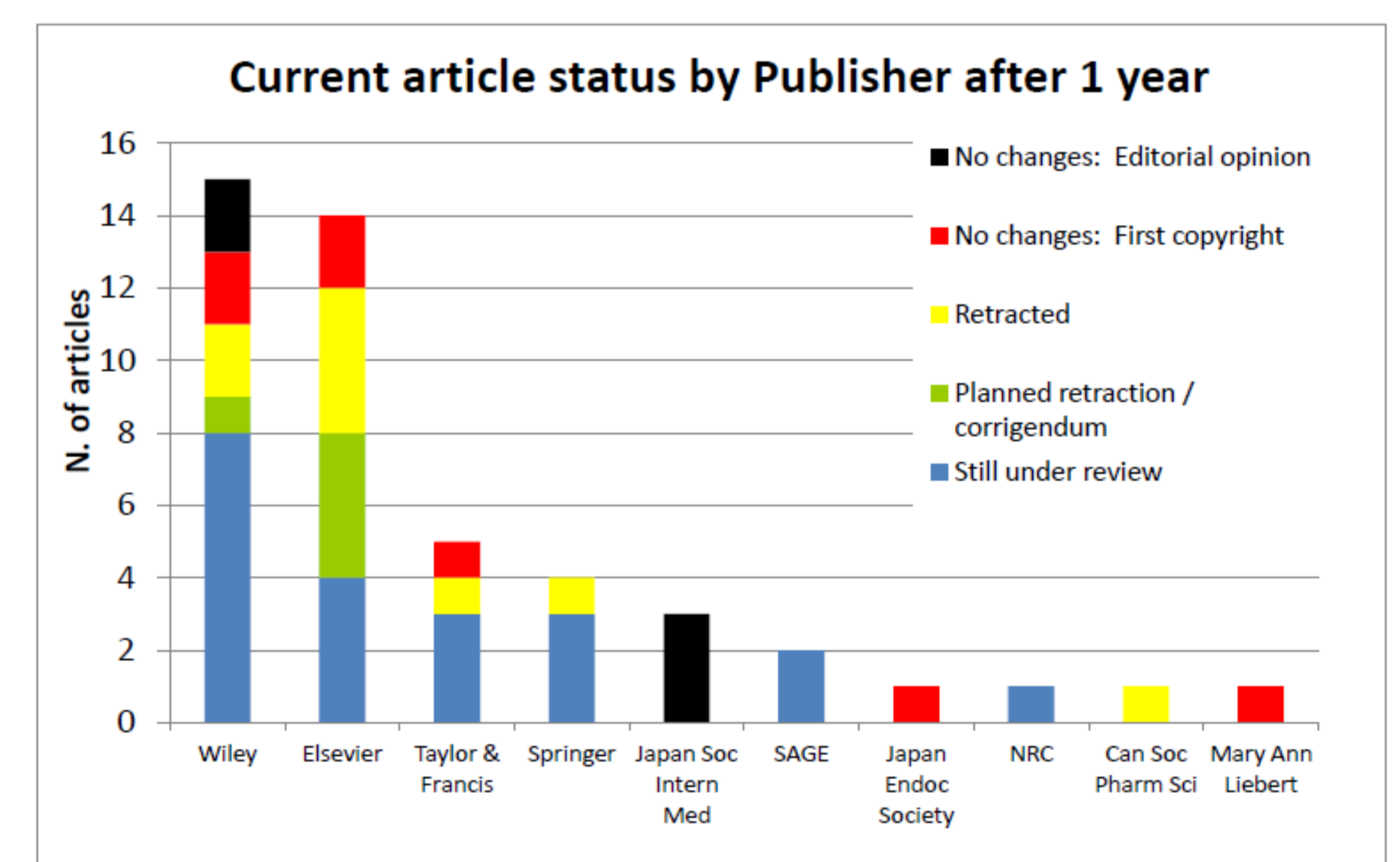
Study	Drugs	PMID Medline	Journal
1	Acarbose, placebo	21367625	Journal of Diabetes and its Complications
1	Acarbose, placebo	21118681	European Journal of Pharmacology
2	Exenatide, metformin	22540883	Diabetic Medicine
2	Exenatide, metformin	23744726	Pharmacotherapy
2	Exenatide, metformin	23984793	Canadian Journal of Physiology and Pharmacology
3	Glimepiride, rosiglitazone, metformin	15938589	The Journal of International Medical Research
3	Glimepiride, rosiglitazone, metformin	16448524	Diabetes, Obesity and Metabolism
3	Glimepiride, rosiglitazone, metformin	16291411	Clinical Therapeutics
3	Glimepiride, rosiglitazone, metformin	15899724	Pharmacotherapy
4	Glimepiride, vildagliptin	24874591	Metabolism Clinical and Experimental
4	Glimepiride, vildagliptin	24824633	Diabetic Medicine
5	Nateglinide	19125899	Journal of Clinical Pharmacy and Therapeutics
5	Nateglinide	18025765	Internal Medicine
6	Orlistat	21812797	Journal of Clinical Pharmacy and Therapeutics
6	Orlistat	20569086	Expert Opinion on Pharmacotherapy
7	Orlistat, carnitin	20683173	Endocrine Journal
7	Orlistat, carnitin	21077943	Fundamental and Clinical Pharmacology
8	Pioglitazone, rosiglitazone, glimepiride	15220018	Clinical Therapeutics (2004)
8	Pioglitazone, rosiglitazone, glimepiride	16861090	Clinical Therapeutics (2006)
8	Pioglitazone, rosiglitazone, glimepiride	15955382	Diabetes Research and Clinical Practice
8	Pioglitazone, rosiglitazone, glimepiride	16555581	Hypertension Research
9	Pioglitazone	20831680	Journal of Clinical Pharmacy and Therapeutics
9	Pioglitazone	19906504	Biomedicine and Pharmacotherapy
10	Rosiglitazone, pioglitazone, metformin	17133785	The Journal of International Medical Research
10	Rosiglitazone, pioglitazone, metformin	17229249	Internal Medicine Journal
10	Rosiglitazone, pioglitazone, metformin	16882108	Journal of Clinical Pharmacy and Therapeutics
10	Rosiglitazone, pioglitazone, metformin	17587750	Hypertension Research
11	Sibutramine, carnitin	20423740	Metabolism Clinical and Experimental
11	Sibutramine, carnitin	20720348	Internal Medicine
12	Sibutramine, placebo	21070297	Journal of Clinical Pharmacy and Therapeutics
12	Sibutramine, placebo	21092710	Journal of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
13	Sitagliptin, metformin	23061989	Expert Opinion on Pharmacotherapy
13	Sitagliptin, metformin	24088749	Internal Medicine
13	Sitagliptin, metformin	22682949	Diabetes Research and Clinical Practice
14	Telmisartan, irbesartan, rosiglitazone	17345784	Hypertension Research
14	Telmisartan, irbesartan, rosiglitazone	17489878	Journal of Clinical Pharmacy and Therapeutics
15	Vildagliptin, metformin	23624419	Pharmacological Research
15	Vildagliptin, metformin	22512264	Diabetes Technology and Therapeutics
15	Vildagliptin, metformin	23121473	Expert Opinion on Pharmacotherapy
16	Enalapril, lercanidipine	24836352	Journal of the American Society of Hypertension
16	Enalapril, lercanidipine	24635387	Journal of Clinical Pharmacy and Therapeutics
17	Olmesartan, amlodipin	24018781	Inflammation
17	Olmesartan, amlodipin	23999037	European Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences
17	Olmesartan, amlodipin	23815562	Expert Opinion on Drug Safety
17	Olmesartan, amlodipin	23216584	Metabolism Clinical and Experimental
17	Olmesartan, amlodipin	22954201	Clinical and Experimental Hypertension
17	Olmesartan, amlodipin	23321403	Journal of the American Society of Hypertension

Conclusions

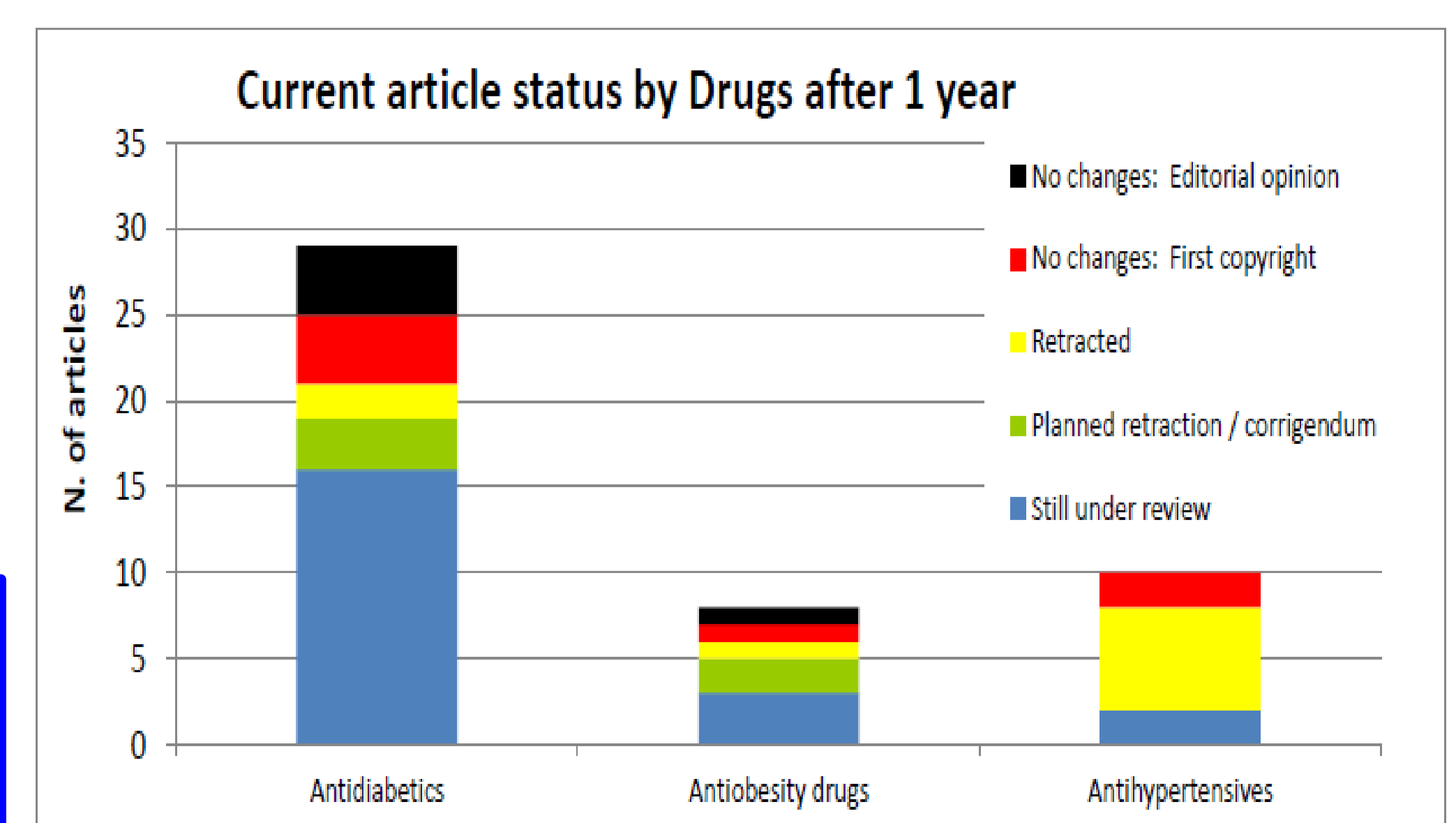
- 1) A comprehensive information retrieval and a peer-review methodology should also be used to identify potential cases of plagiarism.
- 2) Cochrane authors must play an active role in order to correct scientific fraud.
- 3) Journals are expected to implement convincing measures against unethical attitudes in a timely manner.



We retrieved from the PubMed database a total of 129 RCTs published by this researcher, 86 as lead author. A total of 47 RCTs articles (54,7%), including the 8 RCTs previously identified, were considered as potential duplicate publication. The 47 RCTs including antidiabetics, antihypertensives and anti-obesity drugs were published between 2004-2014 and would come from 17 different studies (10 studies x2; 3 studies x3; 3 studies x4; 1 study x6). One journal was involved in 8 repeated articles and 4 journals in 3 repeated articles. All the 26 journals affected, linked to 10 publishers, were informed in October 2015.



As of October 2016, 9 articles have been retracted, 5 are planned to be retracted/corrected and 21 are still under review. 7 articles remain unchanged because they hold a first copyright.



More information:

<http://retractionwatch.com/2016/02/12/investigation-leads-to-5th-retraction-for-drug-researcher/>