Expression of Concern

April 20, 2012

To the readers of Obstetrics & Gynecology:

On March 7, 2012, Toho University in Japan announced the retraction of eight manuscripts by Dr. Yoshitaka Fujii for lack of proper ethics approval. On March 8, 2012, the journal Anaesthesia published an article in which 168 trials published by Dr Fujii were analyzed, with the results raising serious concerns about research misconduct (http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1365-2044.2012.07128.x/full). Per the study author: “...the distributions of continuous and categorical variables reported in Fujii’s papers, both human and animal, are extremely unlikely to have arisen by chance and if so, in many cases with likelihoods that are infinitesimally small.”

Two articles by Dr. Fujii published in Obstetrics & Gynecology were included in the analysis:


Obstetrics & Gynecology has joined other journal editors in contacting Dr. Fujii’s institutions and requesting that an investigation be conducted (see the “Joint Editors-in-Chief Request for Determination Regarding Papers Published by Dr. Yoshitaka Fujii”). Each institution has been offered an opportunity to attest to the integrity of Dr. Fujii’s research. If the institutions are unable to do so, the studies listed above will be retracted.

We are publishing this expression of concern to notify our readership about these findings and the investigative process that is currently underway.

Sincerely,

James R. Scott, MD
Editor-in-Chief