

Omeprazole, Nitrendipine, Famotidine and stress-induced ulcers A case of duplicate publication

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It is with deep regret that we have to report a very unpleasant case of a *duplicate publication* to which we are, inadvertently, part. Naturally this damages not only the authors themselves, but also the Journals in which the articles appeared.

In this specific case, Dr. Inalöz and colleagues from Turkey (at present working in Cardiff, South Wales, U.K.) first sent a manuscript with the title "Omeprazole, Nitrendipine, Famotidine and stress-induces ulcers" to the Italian Journal of Gastroenterology & Hepatology and it was indeed, accepted for publication under the form of Correspondence to the Editor in the April issue (Ital. J. Gastroenterol. Hepatol., 1997, **29** : 195-6). The signed copyright letter gave the assurance that the manuscript was original, had not been previously published and was not under consideration by any other journal.

A few months later, however, the same authors had the same work accepted as an original article (Acta

Gastroenterol. Bel., 1997, **60** : 192-6, July-September) which, of course, contains exactly the same data and which has, very surprisingly, entire pieces which are exactly the same in the two papers. The authors had also signed a copyright ownership to Acta Gastro-Enterologica Belgica with the same assurances.

This episode is very disturbing and distressing to the undersigned who always keep a vigil eye on the scientific production of their colleagues working in countries where basic and clinical research is difficult, but who cannot, in silence, accept lack of respect to the Journals of which they have not only the honour, but also the responsibility, of serving as Editors-in-Chief. One of their main goals must necessarily be to preserve the credibility of the scientific messages.

We hope confident that our Readers will accept our apologies and good faith.