

9 May 2016

Robert Freedman, M.D.
American Journal of Psychiatry
1000 Wilson Boulevard
Suite 1825
Arlington, VA 22209
ajp@psych.org

Dear Dr. Freedman,

We write to you as the editor in chief of the *American Journal of Psychiatry* to request the retraction of Forest Laboratories report of study CIT-MD-18, published as Wagner et al., 'A randomized, placebo-controlled trial of citalopram for the treatment of major depression in children and adolescents', in your journal in June 2004.

The CIT-MD-18 study clearly failed to demonstrate efficacy for citalopram in children and adolescents. However, by way of Forest-sponsored ghostwriting and data manipulation this study was misrepresented as positive, and used to gain a licence for escitalopram for the treatment of adolescent depression.

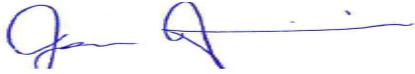
Subsequent to the publication of the Wagner et al. article, you published an editor's note on its authorship and its failure to report the negative Lundbeck study of citalopram in the treatment of depression in children and adolescents (Freedman R, Roy MD, *Am J Psych* 2009, 166: 942-943). You also published criticism of obvious problems in the reporting of the CIT-MD-18 trial results (Martin A, et al. *Am J Psych* 2005, 162:817). Your journal took no further corrective action at that time.

With the recent publication of our article, 'The citalopram CIT-MD-18 pediatric depression trial: A deconstruction of medical ghostwriting, data manipulation and academic malfeasance', in the *International Journal of Risk & Safety in Medicine* (2016, 28:33-43, attached) we, along with other scientists, have drawn attention to further serious misrepresentations that were published in the Wagner et al. paper.

As a result of recently declassified documents from litigation, the extent of Forest Pharmaceutical's data manipulation is only just becoming clear, and is beyond what was available to the public previously. Some of this declassified information is documented in the enclosed article; however, more will be revealed as more documents are released in the public domain in the near future.

We are sure that you agree that the integrity of science depends on disinterest in hypotheses and rigorous adherence to the results of experimental testing. This is particularly important in medicine where significant harm to patients can result from the failure to embrace the ideal of evidence-based medicine. We therefore ask that you retract the Wagner et al. article which otherwise represents a stain of the reputation of the *American Journal of Psychiatry*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Jon N. Jureidini', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jon N. Jureidini
Jay Amsterdam, MD
Leemon McHenry, PhD

Enclosure: Jureidini et al. "The citalopram CIT-MD-18 pediatric depression trial: A deconstruction of medical ghostwriting, data manipulation and academic malfeasance."