Closure on Retraction of Articles by Dr. Reuben

In the March-April 2009 issue of *Regional Anesthesia and Pain Medicine* we retracted an article written by Scott S. Reuben, MD. This retraction was based on an investigation by Dr. Reuben’s home institution, Baystate Medical Center, Springfield, MA, in which 21 of his articles over a 15-year period were determined to contain fabricated data. In a statement issued by the Chief Academic Officer of Baystate Medical Center, it was noted that Dr. Reuben alone was responsible for these instances of scientific misconduct and that none of his co-authors had participated in any wrongdoing.

Since 1996, *Regional Anesthesia and Pain Medicine* (or its previous title *Regional Anesthesia*) published six original articles and one review article in which Dr. Reuben was listed as a co-author. The Editor-in-Chief contacted the lead or high ranking authors of six of those articles. In every case, those individuals attested that to the best of their knowledge the results and conclusions contained within were based on reliable data. The seventh article was written by Dr. Reuben and a research nurse, no attempt was made to contact Dr. Reuben. Based on the attestations of the involved co-authors and the investigations of the Chief Academic Officer of Baystate Medical Center, the Editorial Board of *Regional Anesthesia and Pain Medicine* is comfortable recommending that practitioners continue to make clinical decisions based on the information contained within the seven below cited articles. Of note, the Editorial Board made no attempt to confirm the validity of data contained within a number of abstracts and letters-to-the-editor that listed Dr. Reuben as a co-author and that the journal has published over the years.

REFERENCES


Joseph M. Neal, MD
Editor-in-Chief
*Regional Anesthesia and Pain Medicine*