

From: Mario Capecchi [<mailto:capecchi@genetics.utah.edu>]
Sent: 20 February 2014 22:17
To: Bahler, Jurg
Subject: RE: Biomolecules allegation

Dear Dr. Bahler,

I am very sorry for the inconvenience this issue has caused. Unfortunately Dr. Capecchi and I responded incorrectly when answering the email regarding his membership of the Editorial Board for *Biomolecules*. We agree that your records are correct and that Dr. Capecchi's understanding is that he is a member of your Board.

Again, I apologize for the inconvenience our misunderstanding has caused.

Yours Sincerely,

Lorene Stitzer

Assistant to Mario Capecchi

Mario Capecchi

Distinguished Professor, Human Genetics and Biology

Investigator, Howard Hughes Medical Institute

University of Utah School of Medicine

From: Bahler, Jurg [<mailto:j.bahler@ucl.ac.uk>]
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2014 11:50 AM
To: Mario Capecchi
Cc: Lorene Stitzer
Subject: Biomolecules allegation

Dear Dr Capecchi,

I am writing to you in an urgent matter as Editor-in-Chief of *Biomolecules*, published by MDPI. You are listed on the Editorial Board of this Journal. This Tuesday, an article about MDPI in the online magazine 'eCampus News' mentioned that you are not aware of your association with *Biomolecules* (see page 2 at <http://www.ecampusnews.com/research/open-access-publisher-566/>).

I have also cc'd Ms Lorene Stitzer who has made this statement.

I stress that we wish to refute this allegation in the strongest possible terms. Attached are two email communications: one from 26th August 2010 in which you state to be happy to serve as an honorary member on our Editorial Board, and one from 7th February 2012 in which you acknowledge the MDPI-pen

(which was sent out to all editorial board members). Moreover, MDPI follows the general practice to contact editorial board members on a regular basis, either with short journal reports or newsletters.

You will understand that this false allegation is extremely harmful for our journal at this point. Biomolecules has been shaping up to a respectable venue, and we have been observing very high standards of scientific scrutiny and peer review throughout. It is therefore extremely distressing to see the years of hard work compromised by such a libellous accusation.

I therefore urge you to email me a brief statement to clarify this misunderstanding. Your direct comment is important for our response to the online magazine.

Also, please do let us know whether you are willing to remain as an honorary Editorial Board Member. If you prefer to step down at this point, we would of course honour this request.

All the best,

-Jürg

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