

Jon Jureidini, Psychiatrist. PO Box 3151, Melbourne St, North Adelaide, 5006, Australia

13 April 2011

Dear Dr Ryan,

We write to you as someone listed as an author of the paper published in the *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (JAACAP)* in 2001, under the lead authorship of Martin Keller entitled 'Efficacy of paroxetine in the treatment of adolescent major depression: A randomized, controlled trial'. As you know, that paper described GSK's study 329.

Possibly unbeknownst to you, GSK working behind the scenes manipulated the outcomes on the published paper to make a negative result for efficacy and safety appear positive. This occurred through a ghostwriter, Sally Laden, working with the commercial service entity, Scientific Therapeutics Information.

Study 329 clearly failed to demonstrate efficacy or safety for paroxetine in adolescents, and yet the paper with your name on it claimed "paroxetine is generally well tolerated and effective for major depression in adolescents". We, along with other scientists, have drawn attention to these problems with your paper.<sup>1</sup>

I am 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 an evidence-based medicine. This paper has misled clinicians as the most cited paper for off-label Paxil therapy; at least 75 scientific articles have reproduced false claims about positive outcome from Keller et al.

We have heard that you have expressed misgivings about eth paper in public. We therefore ask that you write to *JAACAP* to ask them to withdraw the paper, or to at least to withdraw your name from it.

Of course if you disagree with our conclusion about the misleading nature of the paper, we will be happy to hear from you about that.

Yours sincerely,

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University of Adelaide

Leemon McHenry  
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California State University, Northridge

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<sup>1</sup> Jureidini J, McHenry L, Mansfield P (2008) Clinical trials and drug promotion: selective reporting of study 329. *International Journal of Risk and Safety in Medicine*, 20:73–81; McHenry L., Jureidini J (2008) Industry-sponsored ghostwriting in clinical trial reporting: A case study. *Accountability in Research*, 15:152–167.

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