
Decision on your manuscript

Bob Uttl <uttlbob@gmail.com>

Wed, Feb 21, 2024 at 9:30 AM

To: Fred Fenter <Frederick.Fenter@frontiersin.org>

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Dear Dr. Fenter:

As I explained, the first step for Frontiers is to apologize. I have not yet received any apology. Let me recap (as you know the details are on <https://bobutt.net>):

As you know, Frontiers accepted our paper after peer-review, published its abstract, collected the APC charges of \$3,295.00, and then, under mysterious circumstances, Dr. Davelaar, Specialty Chief Editor, "rejected" paper already accepted by Dr. Jaswal, Assistant Specialty Chief Editor. Dr. Davelaar did so without even consulting me or seeking my input. Frontiers said that Dr. Davelaar did so based on "several posts" (out of 2,600+) on X that were "flagged" for Frontiers by persons unknown (or known but secretly held by Frontiers). Next, Dr. Davelaar fabricated/made up false issues with our paper and used those fabricated issues as "justification" for his "rejection" of our already accepted paper. Next, Frontiers provided further fabricated reasons for Dr. Davelaar's rejection falsified the publication record and history, and then attempted to explain these later falsifications by claiming that these later falsifications occurred because Frontiers system did not allow Dr. Davelaar to choose the truthful answer.

As I explained, **the first step** to resolve this matter is to apologize, clearly and unequivocally. You have lots to apologize for, for example, (a) for "rejecting" already accepted paper and already published abstract, (b) for Dr. Davelaar's fabrication of issues to "justify" his "rejection" (whether Dr. Davelaar was merely incompetent or acting maliciously need not be resolved for purposes of your apology), (c) for not responding and not taking matters seriously when we pointed out for Frontiers that Dr. Davelaar fabricated the issues, (d) for Frontiers fabricating reasons for rejection and for fabricating the history of the paper, (e) for Frontiers lack of transparency, (f) for Frontiers engaging in censorship of science-based, allegedly, on "several posts" on X (would you call that a "mini mob"?), etc..

The second step is for you to issue written guarantees that you will restore the abstract and publish our paper, as accepted and as copy-proofed previously, immediately after we direct you to do so. Whether or not we will direct you to do so now depends on (a) what we decide once you issue the guarantee, and (b) our discussion with the journal where the paper is undergoing review now (given this unprecedented situation caused by Frontiers inexcusable actions).

It is never too late to apologize if you wish, and it is also never too late to issue your guarantees. Your guarantees would at minimum demonstrate your recognition of Frontiers' inappropriate actions regarding our paper.

The situation created by Frontiers is of Frontier's own doing. It seems to me you do not yet realize the full gravity of the situation and the impact this will have on Frontiers as well as on public trust in science and scientific publishing. You cannot possibly claim to publish science if you censor it because of "several posts" on X and then your Specialty Chief Editor, Dr. Davelaar, fabricates "issues" to "justify" your rejection post-acceptance and post-publication of the abstract (I note here that I allowed Dr. Davelaar, Dr. Jaswal, et al. to explain but they chose to remain silent).

Once you apologize and issue the guarantees then it may be appropriate and useful for us to talk. I am looking forward to your apology and guarantees on behalf of Frontiers.

Thank you for moving to refund the rest of the money.

Best regards,

Dr. Bob Uttl

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