

July 6, 2010 (via email)

Dear Dr. DeMaria:

Thank you for your prompt reply to my email below.

With all due respect to you and your editorial board, we are obviously disappointed in your response.

We believe that there are times in the life of any professional publication, when editors might have to relax various arbitrary rules and limitations, and provide adequate space for a robust assessment of a specific scientific and/or clinical issue.

We believe that the JACC's publication of the paper by Tachjian et al. and the highly critical responses by competent scientific and clinical experts constitutes such a situation.

The inordinately high volume of errors in the cited article are to such an extreme extent – quantitatively and qualitatively -- that it serves only to increase confusion and misinform in an already confusing clinical area -- potential and actual interactions between herbal dietary supplements and cardiovascular drugs. The article provides little, if any, new light on this subject, but in fact, does just the opposite. It confounds and confuses, and it misinforms.

Allowing the Tachjian paper to remain in publication will only continue to add more confusion in this clinically compelling area.

We are convinced that it is in the best interests of all parties in the medical and scientific communities, as well as the general public, that confusion in this area be reduced and that clear, accurate, well-researched, reliable, and authoritative information be published. We believe that it should be quite apparent to you and your editorial board that the Tachjian paper meets none of these criteria.

In our view, the Tachjian paper does not meet what we hope are the high level of publication standards of the JACC, or any other competent medical journal, especially as a publication labeled a "State-of-the-Art Paper".

In our collective professional opinion, we respectfully request that the JACC do the following:

1. humbly acknowledge its error in inadequately peer reviewing and editing the authors' work and in publishing the original article,
2. acknowledge that the numerous egregious errors in the article constitute a level of scientific and clinical irresponsibility which cannot be remedied by the publication of 3 letters and a critique, and
3. retract the article with full public notice and apology.

For all of the multidisciplinary signatories of the initial ABC letter, and in the interests of accurate and responsible publishing,

Sincerely,
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