

# Message from the Editor

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## PLAGIARISM

The *European Journal of Cancer* published an article by Wierda and Pazdernik entitled "Suppression of spleen lymphocytes mitogenesis in mice injected with platinum compounds" (*Eur. J. Cancer* **15** (8), 1013–1023, 1979).

The manuscript of this article was received in this office on 10 October 1978. It was sent to two referees in the United States, one of whom returned it with his comments. The other manuscript was not sent back. It turned out that the referee had died. The paper was accepted by our journal on 5 January 1979 and appeared in the *European Journal of Cancer*, August 1979 number, p. 1013.

On 4 March 1980 it was brought to our attention that an identical article, apart from the discussion and a few minor details, had appeared in English in Japan in *J. Med. Sci. Biol.* **32**, 53–65 (1979). However, the authors were Alsabti, Ghalib and Salem.

There is no doubt that the authentic and original article by Wierda and Pazdernik was plagiarized by Alsabti in the Japanese journal. There are now numerous examples of the same type of plagiarism by Alsabti and these have been reviewed in *Science* **208**, 27 June 1980, p. 1438; also in *Nature* **285**, 12 June 1980; again in *Science* **209**, 11 July 1980, p. 249. The subject was taken up by the *British Medical Journal*, 5 July 1980, p. 41. The situation is now very clear.

A copy of this message is being sent to the Editor of the *Japanese Journal of Medical Sciences and Biology* in which the plagiarized article appeared and his reply will be published when it is forthcoming.