February 20, 2009

To our readers:

On January 22, 2009 Anesthesia & Analgesia received a summary of an investigation conducted by Baystate Medical Center into the research of Dr. Scott Reuben. To quote from the notice we received:

“Baystate Medical Center ("BMC") conducted and investigation pursuant to the Baystate Health Policy on Misconduct in Research and Scholarly Activities (the “Policy”). Dr. Reuben cooperated fully in this investigation. BMC’s investigation determined that Dr. Reuben fabricated data reported in the referenced articles, and that all fabricated data were created under the sole control of Dr. Reuben.”

The same day the Journal posted a list of the articles in Anesthesia & Analgesia found to be based on fabricated data. Since that time we have compiled a complete list of articles that Baystate Medical Center found were based on fabricated data:


Most if not all of these manuscripts will be retracted by the journals in which they are published. However, our responsibility to our readership, and the patients we care for, requires immediate notification of the findings of the Baystate Medical Center to our readership. The formal retraction notice appears in the May issue of Anesthesia & Analgesia. The May issue includes two editorials addressing the implications of these retractions on our understanding of perioperative analgesia.
We appreciate the absolute dedication to academic integrity demonstrated by Baystate Medical Center in conducting this investigation, and sharing with the Journal their findings of data fabrication.

Sincerely,

Steven L. Shafer, MD
Editor-in-Chief
Anesthesia & Analgesia