

February 20, 18

Mikhail Blagosklonny, MD, PhD**Co-Editor-in-Chief, Oncotarget**

Dear Dr. Blagosklonny,

We have received your letter dated February 13, 2018 regarding the de-selection of Oncotarget from the Web of Science. It was forwarded to me by our legal counsel at SatterleeStevens LLP.

The decision to de-select Oncotarget from the Web of Science master journal list was not reached lightly; we performed a thorough evaluation and considered many factors, as has been previously communicated.

You claim that you do not understand why your journal has been de-selected, citing its appearance in the Essential Science Indicators list of October 2017 as a measure of success. Please understand that the Web of Science master journal list and the Essential Science Indicators list are two quite different measures.

Many factors are taken into account when evaluating journals for coverage in Web of Science, **ranging from the qualitative to the quantitative**. We regularly review the journals to ensure they meet our stringent criteria and in the normal ebb and flow of our business, journals move in and out of the list. What does not change, however, are the stringent standards, both qualitative and quantitative, that our editorial team applies to the review of scientific and scholarly publications for coverage in the Web of Science. In this we are independent, publisher-neutral, and stubbornly so, as we have been for 54 years.

The Essential Science Indicators list to which you refer, provides citation rankings of scientists, institutions, countries, and journals broken out by broad fields of science. A citation threshold is applied to each field ranking; scientists and institutions are selected if they are in the top 1% by total citations in a given field, and countries and journals must be in the top 50%. The Essential Science Indicators is updated every two months, and the October 2017 blog post relates to **a quantitative analysis only**, of the data available on the scientists, institutions, countries, and journals that have the **largest percentage increase in total citations from one update to the next**. This is not a qualitative measure.

It is important to understand a final decision was made and no papers published in Oncotarget after Volume 9, Number 4 (January 12, 2018) will be indexed. The journal will not appear in the 2018 Journal Citation Reports (JCR). Please know Clarivate Analytics would be pleased to re-evaluate this journal when it is eligible.

Sincerely,



Chris Burghardt
Vice President, Content Management