



U.S. Department of Justice

Edward R. Martin, Jr.
United States Attorney

District of Columbia

*Patrick Henry Building
601 D Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530*

April 14, 2025

Peter Mazzone, MD, MPH
Editor-in-Chief, CHEST Journal
2595 Patriot Boulevard
Glenview, IL 60026
mazzonp@ccf.org
editorialoffice@chestnet.org

Dear Dr. Mazzone:

As United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, I receive frequent requests for information and clarification. I take these requests seriously and act on them with letters like this one you are receiving.

It has been brought to my attention that more and more journals and publications like CHEST Journal are conceding that they are partisans in various scientific debates - that is, that they have a position for which they are advocating either due to advertisement (under postal code) or sponsorship (under relevant fraud regulations). The public has certain expectations and you have certain responsibilities.

Would you please answer these questions:

- How do you assess your responsibilities to protect the public from misinformation?
- How do you clearly articulate to the public when you have certain viewpoints that are influenced by your ongoing relations with supporters, funders, advertisers, and others?
- Do you accept articles or essays from competing viewpoints?
- How do you assess the role played by government officials and funding organizations like the National Institutes of Health in the development of submitted articles?
- How do you handle allegations that authors of works in your journals may have misled their readers?

I am also interested to know if publishers, journals, and organizations with which you work are adjusting their method of acceptance of competing viewpoints. Are there new norms being developed and offered?

I look forward to I look forward to and appreciate your cooperation with my letter of inquiry after request. Please respond by May 2, 2025. Should you have further questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to call my office or schedule a time to meet in person.

All the best,

Edward R. Martin, Jr.
U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia