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Forensic Science International: Genetics suppression from the JCR 2019

Dear Mrs. Bourke-Waite and Mrs. Hollingsworth,

the Italian Forensic Geneticists group (GeFI) have learned from the board of the ISFG that FSI Genetics will not receive a JIF in the JCR for the year 2019, due to the issue of a high proportion of self-citations.

This new has shocked the entire forensic genetic community, also in Italy represented by Ge.F.I.

FSI Genetics is the official journal of the ISFG, the only international scientific society in the field of forensic genetic and it is the only journal exclusively specializing in forensic genetics listed in the JCR. It has a high scientific value and publishing in this journal has always been the ambition of every researcher in the field. The referees of the journal, moreover, have always used very strict criteria for the selection of scientific works.

The GeFI group organizes for a while already collaborative exercises involving numerous Italian forensic genetics laboratories with the aim of publishing the research in FSI Genetics. (<http://www.gefi-isfg.org/index.php?idpagina=4>).

The fallout from Clarivate's decision could be critical; the Italian MIUR (Ministry of Education, University and Research) relies on a journal's impact factor in making decisions about research support and funding.

The career of young researchers itself is based on adequate recognition of publications and research and development in the field of forensic genetics are directly linked to the quality of scientific publications in the sector.

The absence of other specialized journals will lead to the scientific impoverishment of forensic genetics as there is no longer an adequate depository for this research area.

While respecting your criteria, we firmly believe that your decision has a serious impact for forensic genetics field.

For this reason, it is strongly requested that you will consider the effect of your position on this matter and review the decision.

Sure of your commitment,
best regards,

The GeFI Executive Committee

Loredana Buscemi
President of GeFI (Italian Forensic Geneticists)

Paolo Fattorini
Vicepresident

Carlo Robino
Secretary

Carla Bini
Treasurer

Susi Pelotti
Past President