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Zurich, 28.4.2023

**To anonymous, responsible of defamatory content of the website
“predatory.reports.org”**

You publish a website where you claim to list [predatory journals](#). With the greatest bewilderment we detected our respected journals on that [list](#), namely the [Int J Pub Health](#) and [Pub Health Rev](#).

On behalf of SSPH+ Foundation and the Co-Editors in Chief of both journals, we request the immediate removal of our journals from your website while adding the following statement on the bottom of your list (including the html link):

We apologize for the previous listing of the independent society journals IJPH and PHR of the Swiss School of Public Health ([SSPH+](#))

You are hiding in anonymity to spread defaming fakes. As representatives of the Swiss national network of >250 public health science professors, their research teams and PhD students, affiliated with over 70 research institutes of 12 Swiss universities, SSPH+ defends the ethics of open science, factual rigor, and evidence-based action.

None of the criteria of predatory journals listed by legitimate literature (Strinzel et al 2020, Teixeira da Silva et al 2021) nor a single characteristic out of the ten listed in your defamatory website apply to IJPH or PHR.

The – easily identifiable – facts are:

1. IJPH and PHR are independent “society journals” owned by the Swiss School of Public Health ([SSPH+](#)), a nonprofit Foundation of twelve Swiss universities.
2. In accordance with the requirements of the main national and international research authorities, IJPH and PHR are published [Gold Open Access](#) since 2021.
3. A fully independent Editorial Office and respected Editors-in-Chief, Senior and Associate Editors set the editorial policies, launch calls, and manage a rigorous double blind peer review process with rounds of author revisions. All decisions are made solely by these scientists.
4. As a nonprofit foundation, SSPH+ uses the income from the journals’ APC to fund its Editorial Office, pay the publishing services (per published article), waive APCs for SSPH+ faculty (2023) and support public health sciences, e.g., in a highly innovative editorial training for young researchers ([YRE](#)).
5. Swissuniversities – the association of all universities of Switzerland – awarded our journals with the [Globequity APC Feewaiver program](#) (2022-2024) to fund APCs of authors from low- and middle-income countries.

6. Since 2021, both journals are published by the Swiss company Frontiers (based in Lausanne). The collaboration is based on a fully transparent and fair service contract. As in the past with SpringerNature, Frontiers has no influence on the editorial strategy, peer review, or editorial decisions of our journals.
7. SSPH+ selected Frontiers after a rigorous tender process. Frontiers is accredited and a member of major organizations involved in the regulation of publications and ethical issues, such as [COPE](#), [OASPA - Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association](#), and [DOAJ - Directory of Open Access Journals](#).

Signed on behalf of SSPH+ and the Editors of IJPH and PHR, strongly objecting your concerted threats to the long-standing reputation of our journals

Prof. Milo Puhon, President SSPH+ Foundation, University Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland

Prof. em. Nino Künzli, Dean SSPH+ and Co-EiC IJPH, Zurich, Switzerland

Prof. Katarzyna Czabanowska, Co-EiC PHR, Maastricht University, Maastricht, Netherlands

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Dr. Sarah Mantwill, Co-EiC PHR, University of Lucerne, Switzerland