

## **EMAIL FROM JUFO AND RESPONSE N.KUENZLI – 14.5.2025**

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From: "Janne Pölönen" <janne.polonen@tsv.fi>  
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Date: 14.05.2025 09:45

Subject: RE: Request to support Swiss School of Public Health APC waiver program and to stop JUFO defamation against the independent SSPH+ journals

Dear Nino Kuenzli,

International journal of public health and Public health reviews were included among the 271 MDPI and Frontiers journals JUFO downgraded in December 2024 because Frontiers is indicated as their publisher (e.g. ISSN centre, Scopus, Web of Science). From your communications we understand that these are society owned journals, for which Frontiers provides publishing services and platform. Both journals are currently being re-evaluated in the respective JUFO expert-panel and we expect their decision at the end of May.

Best regards,

Janne Pölönen  
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### **RESPONSE ("REPLY TO ALL")**

Dear Janne Pölönen

Thank you for the response. Sorry to say, but it is as inadequate as the entire defamation orchestrated by JUFO since last fall.

Let us keep four factual points for the record:

1. Step 1 of any journal ranking decision would be an assessment of the journal against the ranking criteria. Instead, JUFO makes defaming decisions without doing step 1. What JUFO schedules for the next meeting should have been done in fall 2024, prior to announcing random downgrading plans and certainly prior to implementing the downgrading.
2. Your response claims that the SSPH+ journals will be "re-evaluated" end of May. This is yet another distortion of the truth. JUFO has never "evaluated" our journals but made downgrading decisions out of the blue. JUFO opted for defamation instead of an evaluation in full knowledge of the facts, all provided by [SSPH+ on 30.12.2024](#). JUFO never responded and bluntly ignores those facts since five months.
3. No matter what JUFO decides end of May: the JUFO defamation remains an outrageous threat for the survival of the SSPH+ journals. SSPH+ must keep all options open to stop JUFO from spreading defamations, fakes, and lies. SSPH+ has to defend basic standards, values and ethics that should guide academia.

4. SSPH+ is looking forward to get a response from the Ministry, related to our request for support. JUFO does not qualify for such response given the fundamental conflicts of interest - also in light of our advice also made to the Ministry: “ *We advise you to dissolve the incompetent and unprofessional JUFO panel, block the use of the opaque and unscientific JUFO classification scheme, and reevaluate the tasks and responsibilities of the next classification board...*” (see p.5 of [SSPH+ letter from 17.2.25.](#)).

With best regards  
Nino Künzli

Bcc goes to JUFO Board

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