

JUFO RESPONSE TO SSPH+ LETTER FROM 30.12.2024, RECEIVED 16.1.25 and REACTION FROM NINO KUENZLI, 17.1.2025

From: "Janne Pölönen" <janne.polonen@tsv.fi>
To: "nino.kuenzli@swisstph.ch" <nino.kuenzli@swisstph.ch>, "petri.k.karonen@jyu.fi" <petri.k.karonen@jyu.fi>
Cc: "miloalan.puhan" <miloalan.puhan@uzh.ch>, "suzanne.suggs@usi.ch" <suzanne.suggs@usi.ch>, "Crivelli Luca" <Luca.Crivelli@supsi.ch>, "Sandra Nocera" <snocera@ssphplus.ch>, "christopher.woodrow@swisstph.ch" <christopher.woodrow@swisstph.ch>
Date: 16.01.2025 07:50
Subject: RE: Request to abstain from downgrading the Swiss School of Public Health journals to "grey publishing level 0"

Dear Nino Künzli,

Thank you for the message. Your request and information concerning the International Journal of Public Health and Public Health Reviews, [downgraded by the Finnish Publication Forum \(JUFO\) among 271 MDPI and Frontiers journals](#), will be forwarded to the respective JUFO expert panel for reconsideration. As indicated in the news piece, the panels regularly consider [level amendment proposals](#), including upgrades from level 0 to level 1. The next evaluation rounds of proposals take place during March and May 2025. While JUFO is concerned about the standard operating models of MDPI and Frontiers journals, we are particularly willing to reconsider journals backed up by non-profit communities, such as Swiss School of Public Health (SSPH+).

Best regards,

Janne Pölönen
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JUFO secretariat

RESPONSE 17.1.2025

From: Nino Künzli/TPH
To: "Janne Pölönen" <janne.polonen@tsv.fi>
Cc: "christopher.woodrow@swisstph.ch" <christopher.woodrow@swisstph.ch>, "Crivelli Luca" <Luca.Crivelli@supsi.ch>, "miloalan.puhan" <miloalan.puhan@uzh.ch>, "petri.k.karonen@jyu.fi" <petri.k.karonen@jyu.fi>, "Sandra Nocera" <snocera@ssphplus.ch>, "suzanne.suggs@usi.ch" <suzanne.suggs@usi.ch>, ilkka.arminen@helsinki, jukka.haapamaki@gov.fi, katja.joronen@utu.fi, riitta.lahdemaki@tuni.fi., kaisa.miettinen@jyu.fi., anne.mantynen@helsinki.fi, joonas.nikkanen@csc.fi, heli.peltola@nullinvaliduef.fi, taina.pihlajaniemi@oulu.fi, Floora.Ruokonen@aka.fi, juha.vaara@oulu.fi, timo.vilen@helsinki.fi
Date: 17.01.2025 22:17
Subject: RE: Request to abstain from downgrading the Swiss School of Public Health journals to "grey publishing level 0"

Dear Janne Pölönen,

Thank you for your very late response.

Your answer is as odd and unacceptable as the JUFO decision to indeed downgrade our journals sometimes between January 6th and January 11th 2025, despite our crystal-clear letter and warning sent end of last year (attached again).

The fact that JUFO is now even postponing the next decisions until March and May is cheeky, to say the least.

SSPH+ reserves all steps and rights to protect it against this presumptuous defamation and the damage that has arisen and will continue to arise from this attack.

If the panel was made up of experts, it would have assessed the journals before attacking a random selection of journals in an uninformed and sneaky way.

It would take less than one minute to figure out that the SSPH+ journals (and indeed other public health journals now downgraded to 0) are neither MDPI nor Frontiers journals.

But obviously, a conspiracy driven JUFO majority does neither care about facts nor its own classification criteria.

Thus, let me repeat: what JUFO does is unethical and far below the minimal standards of evidence-based decision making. This is truly shocking.

You will hear or read from us again

Nino Kuenzli

PS: I have copied the members of the panel listed on the website of JUFO; in case someone does not belong to the panel or was not on the panel at the time decisions were taken to spread defamations against the SSPH+ journals, please ignore this email.

Prof. em. Nino Künzli, MD PhD

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Co-Editor-in-Chief [Int J Public Health](#) – an independent scientific journal of SSPH+

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(swisstph- and unibas-email addresses remain valid)

Former Prof. of Public Health at Swiss TPH and Uni Basel

[NK on Google scholar](#)