

SUBJECT: COMPLIANCE REPORT IN RESPONSE TO THE INQUIRY REPORT ON QUALITY OF THE CONTENTS PUBLISHED BY THE JOURNAL 'ADVANCEMENTS IN LIFE SCIENCES' IN 2022/23

INTRODUCTION

This report presents status of compliance by the journal “Advancements in Life Sciences” with recommendations given in the Inquiry Report 2022/23 (released on 16 June 2025). Further, it also features the corrective measures taken after issuance of expressions of concern for each type of error / discrepancy at article level as per the advisory of the inquiry team.

Adaptation of the Recommendations (as given in Section 2 and Section 4) of the Inquiry Report)

Table 1: This table presents specific responses to each recommendation of the inquiry team.

Sr. No.	Recommendation	Compliance Response
1.	Apply corrective measures as advised in section 2.	All the recommended post-publication corrections are either done or related notices sent to authors (in cases of retractions). Details are in table 2.
2.	Seek clarification / guidance from Web of Science, Scopus and other regulatory bodies on rules of publishing Special Issues. If the practice is not permitted, publication of special issues should be ceased and already published content may be retracted after consultation with the concerned authors.	Clarification from the Web of Science (WoS) was requested. Their response reads as; <i>“...Regarding the publication of Special Issues, this is fine however, articles published within Special Issues should continue to meet all of the Web of Science quality criteria, and the Special Issue should fit the scope of the journal.”</i> Although the practice is permitted, the board intends to put further checks on sanctioning special issues and their handling in future.

Article Level Corrections

In line with the industry's best practices and relevant COPE guidelines, specific corrective measures were implemented to address each type of error and discrepancy. The following provides a type-wise breakdown of the corrective actions taken. For further information on article level corrections, please visit the following link.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1t7UuQVC-QafDI-o1prhxQeSizxj-Ykcs/>

Table 2: This table features details of the corrective measure taken after issuance of expressions of concern for each type of error / discrepancy at article level as per the advisory of the inquiry team. For specific information of each of the treated manuscript, please visit the above link.

Sr No.	Type of Errors Found After Publishing / Other Discrepancies	Occasions	Corrective Measures Advised	Corrective Measures Taken After Issuance of Expression of Concern
1.	Minor (language errors)	8	Expression of concern is recommended. Minor corrections to be applied by the editorial team in consultation with the authors.	Following editorial note added to all the relevant manuscripts after doing the required corrections. "You are viewing the latest version of this article having minor corrections related to the use of English language. Expression of concern is hereby revoked." (Manuscript IDs 2100, 2255, 1667,

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EDITOR

No. REF/WOS/05Dated. 27 June 2025

Sr No.	Type of Errors Found After Publishing / Other Discrepancies	Occasions	Corrective Measures Advised	Corrective Measures Taken After Issuance of Expression of Concern
				1868, 1595, 1758, 2077, 2111)
2.	Record or parts of record not available	1	Expression of concern is recommended. Expulsion of editor / editorial team member process to be started. Record to be recovered.	Following editorial note added to the relevant manuscript after doing the required corrections. <i>"Missing record of the Turnitin Originality / AI Reports has been reconciled by conducting fresh analyses as per the editorial policy. Show of cause notice issued to the concerned editorial team member. Expression of concern is hereby revoked."</i> (Manuscript ID 2023)

Sr No.	Type of Errors Found After Publishing / Other Discrepancies	Occasions	Corrective Measures Advised	Corrective Measures Taken After Issuance of Expression of Concern
3.	Major (quality of figures)	2	Expression of concern is recommended. Major corrections to be sent to authors.	<p>Following editorial note added to the relevant manuscript after doing the required corrections.</p> <p><i>"Readers may please see figures with higher DPI given at the end of Results section in the HTML version. Expression of concern is hereby revoked."</i> (Manuscript ID 1347)</p> <p>In case of this concern on an article from special issue, the following note has been added.</p> <p><i>"Readers may please see figure 3 with higher DPI given at the end of References section in the PDF version. Expression</i></p>

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EDITOR

No. REF/WOS/05Dated. 27 June 2025

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				<i>of concern is hereby revoked."</i> (Manuscript ID 2042)
4.	Major (plagiarism)	19	Expression of concern is recommended. Retraction is advised after reconfirmation.	Retraction process of all the relevant articles has been started, where similarity index was found to be more than the limit of 20% and could be characterized as plagiarism, after doing the required re-analysis. (Manuscript IDs 2059, 1126, 1200, 1519, 1065, 1367, 1363, 1421, 1427, 887, 1111 & 1232).

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				Editorial concern revoked for all the relevant articles, where similarity index was found to be slightly higher than the limit of 20% but could not be characterized as plagiarism, after doing the required re-analysis. (Manuscript IDs 2315, 2025, 2079, 1503, 1488 & 1598)
5.	Inappropriate category assigned	3	Expression of concern is recommended. Expulsion of editor / editorial team member process to be started. Record to be set straight after consultation with the authors.	Following editorial note added to all the relevant articles after doing the required corrections. "The advised corrections have been done and now visible at the relevant links." (Manuscript IDs 1628, 1477 & 1019)

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EDITOR

No. REF/WOS/05Dated. 27 June 2025

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6.	Errors in metadata	4	Expression of concern is recommended. Minor corrections to be applied by the editorial team in consultation with the authors.	Following editorial note added to the relevant manuscript after doing the required corrections. <i>"The advised corrections have been done and now visible at the relevant links."</i> (Manuscript IDs 1338, 1525, 1481 & 1755)
7.	Insufficient Peer Review	4	Expression of concern is recommended. New round of review is advised to ascertain if the reported findings are reliable before taking further action e.g., retraction, corrections.	In case the scientific findings were found reliable, and no further corrections are required, editorial concern has been revoked (Manuscript ID 1968). In two cases where scientific findings were found not reliable or the reported

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				methodology / analysis had serious shortcomings, retraction process started (Manuscript IDs 1971 & 1981).
				In case the scientific findings were found reliable but further corrections are required, corrections / clarifications from authors have been asked (Manuscript ID 1990).

Exceptions

- Manuscript ID 1598: Similar usage sequence of commonly used scientific terms, names of species and chemicals have been found as major sources of total verbatim similarity (23%). Therefore, it may not be considered as plagiarism. *High incidence of plagiarism reported earlier was false as it took content published after publication of this article into account when calculating similarity index during re-analysis.* Hence, the Editorial Expression of Concern is revoked. <https://www.als-journal.com/10115-23/>
- Manuscript ID 1336: Although the total similarity index of the article was well within the permissible limit, rerunning the Turnitin originality analysis showed *similarity index of 8% from a single source.* This has caused the initiation of the retraction process. The process shall be concluded after registering responses from the authors.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EDITOR

No. REF/WOS/05

Dated. 27 June 2025

Additionally

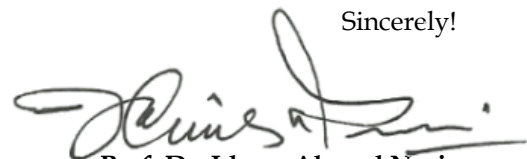
While doing compliance, we could identify that Keywords of the articles of Volume 10 Special Issue (2023) were missing in one specific format (i.e., OJS HTML). Keywords of each of the related articles were added to the aforementioned format from parent data / format.

Conclusion

Inquiry into this cohort of content (2022/23) published by the journal resulted in discovery of 41 instances of either major or minor issues. After careful examination, a total of 15 retractions have been initiated (13 on account of plagiarism and 2 for their unreliable findings). As Chief Editor, I also reiterate that the next cohort of the inquiry, i.e., contents published in 2021 shall be undertaken with the same vigor and focus.

The editorial board is appreciative of the regulatory oversight by the Web of Science and is strongly committed to upkeep the quality standards required for scholarly publishing. We are also thankful to our readers for trusting our platform.

Sincerely!



Prof. Dr. Idrees Ahmed Nasir

Chief Editor

Advancements in Life Sciences

International Quarterly Journal of Biological Sciences