



February 24th, 2010

Dear Professor Duesberg,

I am writing regarding your article: '*HIV-AIDS hypothesis out of touch with South African AIDS – A new perspective*', which was withdrawn as a *Medical Hypotheses* Article-in-Press in August 2009.

As you know, following the recommendations of the external expert panel, the article was sent out for independent peer review, under the management of the Lancet editorial team. The article was sent to five external reviewers; the reviewers' reports are also being sent to you along with this letter.

In light of the unanimous 'reject' recommendations by the reviewers, the Panel has recommended to Elsevier that your article should be permanently withdrawn. We are following this recommendation, and will adjust our withdrawal notice to read as follows:

“This Article-in-Press has been permanently withdrawn.

The editorial policy of MEDICAL HYPOTHESES makes it clear that the journal considers “radical, speculative, and non-mainstream scientific ideas”, and articles will only be acceptable if they are “coherent and clearly expressed.” However, we received serious expressions of concern about the quality of this article, which contains highly controversial opinions about the causes of AIDS, opinions that could potentially be damaging to global public health.

Given these important signals of concern, we commissioned an external expert panel to investigate the circumstances in which this article came to be published online. The panel recommended that the article should be externally peer-reviewed. Following a peer-review process managed by The Lancet editorial team, all five external reviewers recommended rejection, as a result of which the expert panel recommended permanent withdrawal.

The Publisher apologizes for any inconvenience this may cause.”

Sincerely yours,

Chris Lloyd

VP Health Sciences Journals
Elsevier

Cc Dr Bruce Charlton