

Wulf Dröge

Re: "Influence of *N*-acetylcystein on hepatic amino acid metabolism in patients undergoing orthotopic liver transplantation" by Taut et al.

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Dear Sir,

I appreciate very much your being willing to publish the correct version of our manuscript in *Transplant International*. I regret the inconvenience caused by the unauthorized action of one of the coau-

thors. Biomedical publications are mostly based on the joint effort of several scientists. Ideally, credit should therefore be given to the entire group rather than to one individual. The unwritten rules of the scientific community imply, however, that first-authorships are extremely important for the career of young scientists. All coauthors, including Dr. Breitzkreutz, agreed with their signature to the submission of our manuscript, "Influence of *N*-acetylcysteine on hepatic amino acid metabolism in patients undergoing orthotopic liver transplantation", with the author sequence Taut, Breitzkreutz, Zapletal, Thies, Babylon, Martin and Dröge. Pretending that he was acting on behalf of all the authors, Dr. Breitzkreutz called

the production editor and requested that the galley proofs be sent to him for correction. After receiving the proofs, he made a number of important changes, including a change in the first author. I wish to make it clear that Dr. Breitzkreutz did not inform me (as the corresponding author) and that he did not have my permission to make such changes. It would have been easy for him to contact me in Heidelberg regarding this matter.

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