

### Problematic Publications Are Polluting Scientific Literature

Currently, we have analyzed 29 Review articles published on "Journal of Controlled Release" under Open Access model, and found 14 (48%) of them have at least one problematic reference, which was flagged regarding their data/image integrity.

DOI	Year	Self-Citation	Problematic_Reference
10.1016/j.jconrel.2026.114663	2026	9	
10.1016/j.jconrel.2025.114599	2026	0	10.1002/adma.202311803
10.1016/j.jconrel.2025.114583	2025	0	10.3389/fimmu.2023.1113882   10.1038/s41467-020-19314-7
10.1016/j.jconrel.2025.114509	2025	3	
10.1016/j.jconrel.2025.114466	2025	1	
10.1016/j.jconrel.2025.114462	2025	10	10.1073/pnas.1521230113   10.1126/scitranslmed.adi4830   10.1038/s41565-024-01785-0
10.1016/j.jconrel.2025.114386	2025	13	10.7150/thno.20047
10.1016/j.jconrel.2025.114289	2025	2	10.1016/j.bioadv.2024.214086   10.1038/cddis.2014.543
10.1016/j.jconrel.2025.114195	2025	23	
10.1016/j.jconrel.2025.114139	2025	11	
10.1016/j.jconrel.2025.114138	2025	69[?]	
10.1016/j.jconrel.2025.114118	2025	28	10.1016/j.biopha.2023.115934   10.1016/j.abb.2014.01.022   10.1038/srep19720
10.1016/j.jconrel.2025.114100	2025	8	10.1002/adma.201200650
10.1016/j.jconrel.2025.114066	2025	4	
10.1016/j.jconrel.2025.113991	2025	14	
10.1016/j.jconrel.2025.113984	2025	6	
10.1016/j.jconrel.2025.113881	2025	0	
10.1016/j.jconrel.2025.113822	2025	2	10.1021/acs.nanolett.2c00699
10.1016/j.jconrel.2025.113815	2025	17	10.1186/s13045-017-0430-2
10.1016/j.jconrel.2025.113794	2025	2	
10.1016/j.jconrel.2025.113784	2025	7	10.1016/j.biopha.2009.10.006   10.1016/j.carbpol.2023.121081
10.1016/j.jconrel.2025.113655	2025	0	10.1016/j.biomaterials.2019.119602
10.1016/j.jconrel.2025.113620	2025	2	
10.1016/j.jconrel.2025.113589	2025	0	10.1002/smill.202304836   10.2147/IJN.S402410
10.1016/j.jconrel.2025.01.060	2025	4	10.1593/neo.131584   10.3109/08977194.2013.795958   10.1016/j.ccell.2015.12.008
10.1016/j.jconrel.2025.01.056	2025	7	10.1523/jneurosci.3279-05.2005   10.1126/scitranslmed.aaa2512
10.1016/j.jconrel.2025.01.035	2025	1	
10.1016/j.jconrel.2025.01.017	2025	2	
10.1016/j.jconrel.2025.01.007	2025	1	

Our analysis exclusively includes open access review articles, as they are readily accessible to the public for verifying the findings of our study. This methodological choice does not imply that open access review articles have a higher likelihood of containing problematic references.

The 5GH Team also does not contend that review articles with problematic references suffer from integrity issues. Such problematic references are more likely due to authors failing to carefully verify the data or images in cited articles, as well as neglecting to check information on PubPeer or other post-publication review platforms. The purpose of our investigation is to remind the scientific community to exercise caution when selecting references.

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