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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

Dr. Greg J. Marchand, an individual,

Plaintiff,

V.

Taylor & Francis Group, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company,

Defendant.

Case No.

APPLICATION FOR TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER AND PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION

(Expedited Hearing Requested)

Under Fed. R. Civ. P. 65, the Court should enter a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction to prevent Defendant Taylor & Francis Group, LLC (“T&F”) from causing irreparable harm to Plaintiff Dr. Greg J. Marchand’s professional reputation by improperly retracting his published and peer-reviewed research article in breach of the parties’ contract and T&F’s duties of care as a publisher.

I. Background.

A. T&F Accepted Dr. Marchand's Article and Published it in the Journal.

Dr. Marchand is a licensed doctor in Arizona who practices as an accredited master surgeon specializing in minimally invasive gynecologic surgery. Complaint, ¶ 20.¹ Dr. Marchand is also a research physician who has published more than 120 research articles. Complaint, ¶ 21. On May 3, 2023, Dr. Marchand submitted for publication in the Journal an article titled “Risk of all-cause and cardiac-related mortality after vaccination against

¹ Dr. Marchand's declaration is attached to the Complaint as Exhibit A.

1 COVID-19: A meta-analysis of self-controlled case series studies” (the “Article”).
 2 Complaint, ¶ 22. T&F accepted the Article for publication in Volume 19, Issue 2 of the
 3 Journal, and stated that T&F would send Dr. Marchand an invoice for publication charges.
 4 *See* Complaint, ¶ 23. On June 26, 2023, T&F sent Dr. Marchand an email regarding
 5 publication of the Article in the Journal, which purported to include a link to an Author
 6 Publishing Agreement, but Dr. Marchand did not receive and did not sign an Author
 7 Publishing Agreement for the Article. Complaint, ¶¶ 24-25.

8 On June 26, 2023, T&F sent Dr. Marchand an invoice for \$3,175.00 in charges to
 9 publish the Article in the Journal. Complaint, ¶ 26. The publishing charge allowed T&F to
 10 publish the Article as “open access online,” Complaint, ¶ 27, which makes “published
 11 academic articles freely and permanently available online” and that “[a]nyone, anywhere
 12 can read and build upon this research.” Complaint, ¶ 28. Dr. Marchand promptly paid
 13 T&F’s invoice for “open access” publication charges in full. Complaint, ¶ 29.

14 Once T&F accepts an article for publication, the article is subject to a thorough
 15 vetting and review process, which may require corrections or modifications to respond to
 16 the comments or concerns of peer reviewers or editors. Dr. Marchand and his co-authors
 17 fully cooperated with T&F throughout the Journal’s peer-review, editing and publication
 18 process for the Article. Complaint, ¶ 30. On July 29, 2023, Dr. Marchand submitted
 19 corrections to T&F’s proof of the Article prior to publication. Complaint, ¶ 31. On
 20 August 3, 2023, T&F published the Article in the Journal and made the Article available to
 21 the public on the internet. Complaint, ¶ 32.

22 T&F only publishes articles after it has conducted an independent review process,
 23 has received any required corrections, and has been satisfied that an article’s data,
 24 methodology, and conclusions are valid and supported. *See* Complaint, ¶ 33. T&F claims
 25 that its policy is to maintain the integrity of a published article “extant, exact, and unaltered
 26 to the maximum extent possible.” Complaint, ¶ 35.

27 The Article did not contain political opinions or materials, but it received substantial
 28 attention, debate, and interest in the medical, scientific, and other communities due to the

1 controversial subject matter. Complaint, ¶ 36. To date, T&F's website claims the Article
 2 has received nearly 150,000 views. Complaint, ¶ 37.

3 **B. T&F Published Two Letters to the Editor that Critiqued the Article, and
 4 Asked Dr. Marchand to Correct His Article.**

5 One critique of the Article came in a letter to the editor from Mr. Somovilla del Saz,
 6 which T&F accepted for publication and subsequently published. Complaint, ¶ 38. On or
 7 about September 7, 2023, Dr. Marchand and a co-author submitted a response for
 8 publication in the Journal ("Response") titled "Response to Mr. Somovilla del Saz's letter
 9 to the editor regarding 'Risk of all-cause and cardiac-related mortality after vaccination
 10 against COVID-19: A meta-analysis of self-controlled case series studies.'" Complaint,
 11 ¶ 39. T&F accepted Dr. Marchand's Response on September 25, 2023 and
 12 published the Response on October 8, 2023. Complaint, ¶¶ 40-41.

13 Two months later, T&F published another letter to the editor from Dr. Black, which
 14 criticized the Article. Complaint, ¶ 44. Three months after Dr. Black's letter, on March 14,
 15 2024, T&F sent an email to Dr. Marchand with a "publisher query" regarding the Article
 16 because "concerns have been raised" in Dr. Black's letter to the editor. Complaint, ¶ 45.

17 T&F explained that, based on its "editorial policies and the Committee on
 18 Publication Ethics (COPE) guidelines," T&F sent the Article "for confidential post-
 19 publication review to an independent expert" to "assess the methodology of the publication"
 20 and other "concerns raised." Complaint, ¶ 46. This post-publication review was duplicative
 21 of the thorough vetting and review process that T&F used before accepting and publishing
 22 the Article, but was after the issue in the Article had been more widely discussed in the
 23 medical community after the COVID pandemic. *See* Complaint, ¶ 47.

24 After this additional post-publication review, T&F asked Dr. Marchand to respond
 25 to "several concerns" the reviewer raised, including a specific query about "hazard ratios."
 26 Complaint, ¶ 48. Dr. Marchand and his co-author cooperated with T&F's request, and on
 27 April 11, 2024, provided a detailed written response to T&F's post-publication query and
 28 review to address the concerns raised. Complaint, ¶ 49. T&F responded that the explanation

1 addressed “the concern to some extent,” but that “a few issues” would “warrant further
 2 clarification.” Complaint, ¶ 50. T&F expressed that a correction notice was appropriate, and
 3 asked Dr. Marchand to “correct and revise your published paper” based on the reviewer’s
 4 “criteria.” Complaint, ¶ 51.

5 T&F claims that a correction notice is “issued when it is necessary to correct an error
 6 or omission, where the interpretation of the article may be impacted but the scholarly
 7 integrity or original findings remains intact.” Complaint, ¶ 52. On May 9, 2024, Dr.
 8 Marchand responded that the reviewer’s points were valuable additions that, “had they been
 9 suggested during the review process,” would have been addressed before T&F accepted and
 10 published the Article. Complaint, ¶ 53. But Dr. Marchand stressed that the reviewer’s
 11 points “neither correct any error nor represent an omission of any part of a paper that is
 12 essential to a meta analysis,” and suggested that an addendum rather than a correction would
 13 be proper. Complaint, ¶ 54. On June 3, 2024, T&F insisted on a “Correction rather than an
 14 Addendum,” and asked Dr. Marchand to “correct and revise your published paper.”
 15 Complaint, ¶ 55.

16 Dr. Marchand and his co-authors submitted their “corrected manuscript” to T&F that
 17 addressed all concerns raised and, on September 3, 2024, T&F advised that the Journal’s
 18 editor-in-chief and reviewer were “satisfied that the requested amendments have been
 19 addressed” and that T&F could “proceed with correcting the paper.” Complaint, ¶¶ 56-57.
 20 Importantly, on October 16, 2024, T&F claimed that it would indicate in its “correction
 21 notice that the results have not been affected” by the amendments and corrections.
 22 Complaint, ¶ 58.

23 **C. T&F Failed to Publish the Corrected Article and Threatened Retraction.**

24 Even though T&F had agreed to publish the amended Article after the corrections
 25 addressed any issues, T&F failed to publish the corrected Article, and later raised a new
 26 issue about the use of a fixed-effects analysis rather than a random-effects analysis. *See*
 27 Complaint, ¶¶ 59-60. Dr. Marchand expressed his frustration to T&F, but T&F neither
 28 responded to Dr. Marchand nor published the corrected Article for nine months. *See*

1 Complaint, ¶¶ 61-69.

2 Finally, in late July 2025, T&F responded to tell Dr. Marchand that it had “started
 3 afresh with an assessment by our more newly appointed data integrity editor” who agreed
 4 with prior concerns raised about the Article and identified “two new concerns.”
 5 Complaint, ¶ 70. On August 1, 2025, Dr. Marchand responded that he and his co-authors
 6 would “submit a full detailed response to all presented allegations,” but noted that the main
 7 conclusion of the Article had “not been questioned by any of the reviewers, commenters, or
 8 independent third parties and remains intact,” that any corrections of alleged errors would
 9 not invalidate or alter the Article’s main conclusion, and that T&F should have published
 10 the corrected version of the Article that Dr. Marchand submitted in July 2024 and that T&F
 11 accepted in September and October 2024. Complaint, ¶ 73.

12 T&F requested that Dr. Marchand provide a response in defense of the Article by
 13 September 5, 2025, which deadline T&F subsequently extended to September 14, 2025;
 14 Dr. Marchand and his co-authors provided a detailed response to T&F in defense of the
 15 Article the same day. Complaint, ¶¶ 74-75. On November 12, 2025, T&F sent Dr.
 16 Marchand an email that claimed “some of our major concerns regarding your article still
 17 remain unaddressed” and that T&F intended to publish a “retraction notice” regarding the
 18 Article. Complaint, ¶ 76. T&F asked Dr. Marchand to provide “any further new evidence
 19 to address our concerns” by November 24, 2025. Complaint, ¶ 77.

20 Under T&F’s own policies and guidelines, “a Correction can correct an error or
 21 omissions where the interpretation of the article may be impacted but the scholarly integrity
 22 or original findings remains intact” but “a Retraction will be issued where the conclusions
 23 of the article are affected.” Complaint, ¶ 71. Retraction notices are, in fact, one of the most
 24 extreme and negative actions that a publisher can take with respect to a previously published
 25 research paper, and retraction implies that the author(s) engaged in significant misconduct
 26 such as data fabrication, plagiarism, or other improprieties. Complaint, ¶ 79. Because of the
 27 severity of a retraction, T&F claims that a “decision to retract an article will be made in
 28 accordance with both [T&F] policies and COPE guidelines” after “a full investigation” by

1 T&F’s “editorial staff in collaboration with the journal’s editorial team.” Complaint, ¶ 81.
 2 The COPE guidelines provide that “[r]etraction is a mechanism for correcting the literature
 3 and alerting readers to articles that have such seriously flawed or erroneous content or data
 4 that their findings and conclusions cannot be relied upon.” Complaint, ¶ 82. That is why the
 5 COPE guidelines provide that retraction is “not appropriate” when a “correction would
 6 sufficiently deal with the errors or concerns raised, provided that the main results and
 7 conclusions are not unduly affected by the correction.” Complaint, ¶ 84.

8 Contrary to T&F’s policies and COPE’s guidelines, T&F threatened to retract the
 9 Article over two years after its publication based on purported minor, technical concerns
 10 raised in letters to the editor from Mr. Somovilla del Saz and Dr. Black, which Dr.
 11 Marchand and his co-authors spent substantial time and expense to fully address and correct
 12 on multiple occasions, including in the published Response and in the corrected version of
 13 the Article submitted in July 2024 that T&F accepted in September and October 2024 but
 14 then failed to publish as agreed.² Complaint, ¶ 88.

15 At no point has T&F, the Journal, or any of their editors or reviewers accused Dr.
 16 Marchand or his co-authors of misconduct, plagiarism, or data fabrication as a basis to
 17 retract the Article. Complaint, ¶ 89. At no point has T&F, the Journal, or any of their editors
 18 or reviewers challenged the Article’s main conclusion as a basis to retract the Article.
 19 Complaint, ¶ 90. And at no point has T&F, the Journal, or any of their editors or reviewers
 20 identified any specific ethics, T&F policies, Journal policies, or COPE guidelines that Dr.
 21 Marchand and his co-authors allegedly violated with respect to the Article or its corrected
 22 version. Complaint, ¶ 91.

23 Neither T&F’s policies nor the COPE guidelines require the retraction of the Article.
 24 Complaint, ¶¶ 92-93. By pursuing a retraction, T&F is failing to comply with the COPE
 25 guidelines and its policies. Complaint, ¶¶ 94-95. T&F intends to retract the Article not
 26 based on any major concerns identified by an unbiased reviewer, but instead based on

27
 28 ² COPE guidelines also require T&F to inform authors “why the editor decided to
 investigate their article, what caused the editor to lose confidence in the article, and why
 that concern cannot be resolved by a correction.” Complaint, ¶ 87.

1 monetary, political, and/or other ulterior and improper motivations of biased third-parties
 2 who have identified, at best, only minor, correctable, technical concerns about the Article,
 3 which Dr. Marchand has addressed or is willing to address. *See Complaint*, ¶ 96.

4 If T&F retracts the Article, that retraction would automatically trigger a report to the
 5 National Institute of Health that would place Dr. Marchand and his co-authors' names on a
 6 publicly available database that identifies the article as having been retracted and which
 7 would call into question—without explanation from Dr. Marchand—the nature of
 8 Dr. Marchand and his co-authors' other research. *Complaint*, ¶ 97. Retraction of the Article
 9 threatens immediate, irreparable harm to Dr. Marchand and his professional reputation,
 10 which would, among other things, negatively impact Dr. Marchand's career and
 11 professional opportunities, including his medical practice, his ability to obtain research
 12 grants, his ability to chair or participate in conferences, his ability to publish research and
 13 scholarly articles, and his standing in the medical community. *Complaint*, ¶ 99.

14 **II. The Court Should Grant Injunctive Relief in Dr. Marchand's Favor.**

15 **A. The Injunctive Relief Standard.**

16 The Court may grant temporary restraining orders and preliminary injunctions. Fed.
 17 R. Civ. P. 65; *see also* A.R.S. §§ 12-1801 and 12-1803. A prohibitory preliminary
 18 injunction requires a party to refrain from taking action to preserve the status quo pending
 19 a determination on the merits. *Marlyn Nutraceuticals, Inc. v. Mucos Pharma GmbH & Co.*,
 20 571 F.3d 873, 878-79 (9th Cir. 2009). “A plaintiff seeking a preliminary injunction must
 21 establish that he is likely to succeed on the merits, that he is likely to suffer irreparable harm
 22 in the absence of preliminary relief, that the balance of equities tips in his favor, and that an
 23 injunction is in the public interest.” *Winter v. Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc.*, 555
 24 U.S. 7, 20 (2008).

25 The Ninth Circuit uses a “sliding scale” approach under which “a stronger showing
 26 of one element may offset a weaker showing of another,” such as “a stronger showing of
 27 irreparable harm to plaintiff” offsetting “a lesser showing of likelihood of success on the
 28 merits.” *Alliance for the Wild Rockies v. Cottrell*, 632 F.3d 1127, 1131 (9th Cir. 2011). The

1 Court may, for example, issue a preliminary injunction if “serious questions” on the merits
 2 are raised and the balance of hardships tips sharply in plaintiff’s favor. *Id.* at 1131-32, 1134-
 3 35. “Serious questions” on the merits is “a lesser showing than likelihood of success on the
 4 merits.” *Recovery Housing Academy LLC v. Candelario*, 562 F.Supp.3d 333, 339 (D. Ariz.
 5 2022). “Serious questions” generally cannot be resolved at a preliminary hearing because
 6 they require more deliberative investigation. *Manrique v. Kolc*, 65 F.4th 1037, 1041 (9th
 7 Cir. 2023).

8 **B. Dr. Marchand is Likely to Succeed on the Merits.**

9 **1. T&F Breached the Parties’ Contract.**

10 Dr. Marchand has a strong likelihood of success on his claim that T&F breached the
 11 parties’ contract and the implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing. A breach of
 12 contract claim requires a plaintiff to prove “the existence of the contract, its breach and the
 13 resulting damages.” *Graham v. Asbury*, 112 Ariz. 184 (1975). Every contract has an implied
 14 covenant of good faith and fair dealing that preserves the parties’ reasonable expectations
 15 and precludes one party from acting to impair the other party’s right to receive the benefits
 16 of the contract. *Bike Fashion Corp. v. Kramer*, 202 Ariz. 420, 423, ¶ 13 (App. 2002).

17 In this case, T&F’s acceptance and publication of the Article,³ T&F’s policies, and
 18 COPE guidelines formed a contract between T&F and Dr. Marchand related to the Article.
 19 Dr. Marchand fully performed under the contract, including by fully cooperating with T&F
 20 in the editing, peer review and pre-publication process for the Article, paying T&F’s
 21 publication charges, and providing T&F with a corrected version of the Article for
 22 publication after T&F identified minor issues in multiple, duplicative post-publication
 23 reviews. But T&F’s threatened retraction of the Article in violation of T&F’s policies and
 24 COPE guidelines would materially breach the contract and the implied covenant of good
 25 faith and fair dealing.

26

27 ³ Dr. Marchand did not specifically receive or sign an Author Publishing Agreement related
 28 to the Article, but the specific terms T&F proposed were present in the emails sent to and
 from Dr. Marchand at the time T&F accepted the Article. See, e.g., Complaint, Ex. A, ¶¶ 18-
 19.



1 Specifically, T&F’s policy is that a “decision to retract an article will be made in
 2 accordance with both [T&F] policies and COPE guidelines” after “a full investigation” by
 3 T&F’s “editorial staff in collaboration with the journal’s editorial team.” Complaint, ¶ 81.
 4 T&F’s policy is that letters to the editor “may raise issues with articles or spark debates or
 5 discussions . . . but should not ultimately be used as a route for objective corrective action.”
 6 *Id.*, ¶ 72. COPE guidelines provide that “[r]etraction is a mechanism for correcting the
 7 literature and alerting readers to articles that have such seriously flawed or erroneous
 8 content or data that their findings and conclusions cannot be relied upon.” *Id.*, ¶ 82. But
 9 retraction is “not appropriate” when “an editor is uncertain about the reliability of a
 10 publication.” *Id.*, ¶ 83. Retraction is also “not appropriate” when a “correction would
 11 sufficiently deal with the errors or concerns raised, provided that the main results and
 12 conclusions are not unduly affected by the correction.” *Id.*, ¶ 84. COPE guidelines provide
 13 that “retraction notices should be published as soon as the editor is confident that the
 14 publication is seriously flawed, misleading, or falls into” another appropriate category for
 15 retraction, and require a publisher to inform the authors “why the editor decided to
 16 investigate their article, what caused the editor to lose confidence in the article, and why
 17 that concern cannot be resolved by a correction.” *Id.*, ¶¶ 85, 87.

18 But at no point has T&F, the Journal, or any of their editors or reviewers challenged
 19 the Article’s main conclusion as a basis to retract the Article. *Id.*, ¶ 90. At no point has T&F,
 20 the Journal, or any of their editors or reviewers accused Dr. Marchand or his co-authors of
 21 misconduct, plagiarism, or data fabrication as a basis to retract the Article. *Id.*, ¶ 89. At no
 22 point has T&F, the Journal, or any of their editors or reviewers identified any specific ethics,
 23 T&F policies, Journal policies, or COPE guidelines that Dr. Marchand and his co-authors
 24 allegedly violated with respect to the Article or its corrected version. *Id.*, ¶ 91.

25 Neither T&F’s policies nor COPE guidelines require or permit retraction of the
 26 Article. *Id.*, ¶ 92-93. T&F’s threat to retract the Article, more than two years after its
 27 publication and based on purported minor, correctable technicalities identified in letters to
 28 the editor directly contradicts T&F’s policies and COPE’s guidelines and constitutes a

1 material breach of the parties' contract and the implied covenant of good faith and fair
 2 dealing. T&F further breached the parties' contract and the implied covenant of good faith
 3 and fair dealing by unreasonably extending, repeating, and delaying the review process for
 4 the Article, and failing to publish the corrected version of the Article that Dr. Marchand
 5 submitted in July 2024 and that T&F accepted in September and October 2024. Dr.
 6 Marchand thus has a strong likelihood of success on his contract claim, or at a minimum,
 7 has raised serious questions about the merits.

8 **2. Dr. Marchand is Entitled to a Declaratory Judgment.**

9 Dr. Marchand also has a strong likelihood of success on his claim for declaratory
 10 judgment. The Court has the power to declare the parties' rights, status, and other legal
 11 relations with respect to their contract and Article either before or after a breach. A.R.S.
 12 §§ 12-1832, 12-1833, and 12-1835. As set forth above, a dispute or controversy has arisen
 13 between T&F and Dr. Marchand regarding their contract, the published Article, and the
 14 corrected version of the Article that T&F accepted but did not publish, including but not
 15 limited to the threatened retraction of the Article. Dr. Marchand is entitled to a declaration
 16 that, among other things, T&F breached the parties' contract, T&F accepted and agreed to
 17 publish the corrected version of the Article rather than retracting the Article, T&F failed to
 18 comply with its own policies concerning corrections and retractions, T&F failed to comply
 19 with COPE guidelines concerning corrections and retractions, and T&F has no legitimate
 20 basis to retract the Article. The requested declaratory judgment will terminate the parties'
 21 controversy or remove an uncertainty. A.R.S. §§ 12-1835 and 12-1836.

22 **3. T&F Acted Negligently.**

23 Dr. Marchand has a strong likelihood of success on his negligence claim that T&F
 24 breached its duty of care to conform to industry publishing standards. Negligence requires
 25 a plaintiff to "prove four elements: (1) a duty requiring the defendant to conform to a certain
 26 standard of care; (2) a breach by the defendant of that standard; (3) a causal connection
 27 between the defendant's conduct and the resulting injury; and (4) actual damages." *Gipson*
 28 *v. Kasey*, 214 Ariz. 141, 143, ¶ 9 (2007). Duties of care may arise from, among other things,

1 a contractual relationship, conduct undertaken by the defendant, or as a matter of public
 2 policy. *Id.* at 144-45, ¶¶ 18-23.

3 Here, T&F owed Dr. Marchand a duty of care to comply with all industry standards
 4 related to responsible publishing in the academic and scientific journals, including
 5 recognized and accepted industry standards and policies related to peer review, post-
 6 publication reviews, corrections, and retractions. As set forth above, T&F breached its duty,
 7 including by failing to comply with T&F's own policies and COPE guidelines with respect
 8 to the Article. T&F's breach of its duties has caused and threatens to continue to cause
 9 substantial damage to Dr. Marchand.

10 **C. Dr. Marchand Will Suffer Irreparable Harm Without an Injunction.**

11 In the absence of injunctive relief, Dr. Marchand will suffer irreparable harm to his
 12 professional reputation, career, and personal goodwill. Generally, “economic injury alone
 13 does not support a finding of irreparable harm.” *Rent-A-Center, Inc. v. Canyon Television*
 14 *and Appliance Rental, Inc.*, 944 F.2d 597, 603 (9th Cir. 1991). But “intangible injuries”
 15 may “qualify as irreparable harm.” *Id.* The loss of reputation, customers, and goodwill “are
 16 often intangible and cannot be easily valued” or “remedied with an award of monetary
 17 damages.” *Forefront Dermatology S.C. v. Crossman*, 642 F.Supp.3d 947, 951-52 (D. Ariz.
 18 2022); *see also Herb Reed Enterprises, LLC v. Florida Entertainment Mgmt.*, 736 F.3d
 19 1239, 1250 (9th Cir. 2013) (“Evidence of loss of control over business reputation and
 20 damage to goodwill could constitute irreparable harm.”); *Recovery Housing Academy*, 562
 21 F.Supp.3d at 342 (“Loss of goodwill supports a finding of the possibility of irreparable
 22 harm.”).

23 Retraction notices are one of the most extreme and negative actions that a publisher
 24 can take with respect to a previously published research paper. T&F claimed that “a
 25 Correction can correct an error or omissions where the interpretation of the article may be
 26 impacted but the scholarly integrity or original findings remains intact” but “a Retraction
 27 will be issued where the conclusions of the article are affected.” Retraction carries a
 28 negative connotation that would defame Dr. Marchand and unfairly imply he engaged in

1 significant misconduct such as data fabrication, plagiarism, or other improprieties. *See*
 2 *Recovery Housing Academy*, 562 F.Supp.3d at 340-41 (“A person may be liable for what
 3 he or she insinuates as well as what he or she says explicitly” that impeaches a party’s
 4 business reputation). Retraction of the Article threatens immediate, irreparable harm to Dr.
 5 Marchand and his professional reputation, which would, among other things, negatively
 6 impact Dr. Marchand’s career and professional opportunities, including his medical
 7 practice, his ability to obtain research grants, his ability to publish research and scholarly
 8 articles, and his ability to obtain academic appointments in university OBGYN departments,
 9 or to obtain consulting positions with major pharmaceutical or surgical device companies.

10 Retraction of the Article would also automatically trigger a report to the National
 11 Institute of Health that would place Dr. Marchand’s and his co-authors’ names on a publicly
 12 available database that would indicate that the Article has been retracted without any
 13 explanation from Dr. Marchand about how his proposed corrections to the Article would
 14 have addressed any concerns and removed the need for a retraction. Further, T&F’s
 15 threatened retraction of the Article would likely include the publication of false information
 16 that defames Dr. Marchand within his profession and publicly places him in a false light.
 17 *See Recovery Housing Academy*, 562 F.Supp.3d at 340 (“courts routinely grant TROs
 18 restricting speech that is not merely false, but defamatory”). Once T&F retracts the Article,
 19 that bell cannot be unrung, and it would be difficult if not impossible for Dr. Marchand to
 20 quantify the various ways the retraction negatively impacts his professional reputation and
 21 opportunities.

22 **D. The Balance of Equities Favors Dr. Marchand.**

23 The equities weigh heavily in Dr. Marchand’s favor. The Court should balance
 24 competing claims of injury and the effect on each party if the requested relief is granted or
 25 withheld. *Winter*, 555 U.S. at 24. An injunction that holds a party to contractually agreed
 26 terms, even if the party denies any breach, “should not be particularly harmful or unduly
 27 burdensome.” *Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith, Inc. v. McClafferty*, 287 F.Supp.2d
 28 1244, 1249 (D. Haw. 2003).

1 As set forth above, Dr. Marchand will suffer significant, irreparable harm in the
 2 absence of injunctive relief. On the other hand, requiring T&F to comply with the parties'
 3 agreement and leave the Article undisturbed on its website pending adjudication of the
 4 merits will not cause T&F any hardship. Dr. Marchand already paid T&F all publishing
 5 charges for the Article, which T&F represented would allow "open access" to the Article
 6 and make it "freely and permanently available online" so "[a]nyone, anywhere can read and
 7 build upon this research." T&F also already subjected the Article to rigorous vetting and
 8 peer-review before publishing it. And T&F's proclaimed policy is to maintain the integrity
 9 of a published article "extant, exact, and unaltered to the maximum extent possible."

10 Even after publication, Dr. Marchand not only provided the Response that T&F
 11 published to address various concerns, but also provided a corrected version of the Article
 12 that T&F was "satisfied" had "addressed" all "requested amendments." T&F agreed to
 13 publish the corrected version of the Article with a "correction notice that the results have
 14 not been affected" by any corrections. Dr. Marchand would not oppose T&F publishing the
 15 corrected version of the Article as previously agreed, but T&F's sudden change of mind to
 16 retract the Article after many months of silence is completely unwarranted and demonstrates
 17 that a slightly longer delay will not prejudice T&F.

18 Further, T&F need not worry about its own reputation or liability if the Article
 19 remains undisturbed pending adjudication on the merits. T&F's website already warns
 20 readers that T&F "make[s] no representations or warranties whatsoever as to the accuracy,
 21 completeness, or suitability for any purpose of the Content" and that "[a]ny opinions and
 22 views expressed in this publication are the opinions and views of the authors, and are not
 23 the views of or endorsed by" T&F. T&F further claims that "[t]he accuracy of the Content
 24 should not be relied upon and should be independently verified with primary sources of
 25 information." And T&F expressly disclaims any liability or damages related to the Content
 26 of the Journal. *See also Winter v. G.P. Putnam's Sons*, 938 F.2d 1033, 1037 (9th Cir. 1991)
 27 (stating that publishers do not owe a general duty to investigate the accuracy of a
 28 publication's contents). T&F will not suffer any hardship or prejudice if the Court grants



1 injunctive relief in Dr. Marchand's favor, but Dr. Marchand will suffer substantial
 2 irreparable harm in the absence of injunctive relief. The balance of hardships thus tips
 3 sharply in Dr. Marchand's favor.

4 **E. An Injunction is in the Public Interest.**

5 Granting an injunction would further the public's interest. The public interest is
 6 served by protecting a party's contractual rights. *Compass Bank v. Hartley*, 430 F.Supp.2d
 7 973, 983 (D. Ariz. 2006); *c.f. 1800 Ocotillo, LLC v. WLB Group, Inc.*, 219 Ariz. 200, 202,
 8 ¶ 8 (2008) ("Society also broadly benefits from the prospect that bargains struck between
 9 competent parties will be enforced."); *Merrill v. Gordon*, 15 Ariz. 521, 531 (1914)
 10 ("Freedom of contract and freedom in the use and disposition of one's own are no less
 11 sacred than freedom of speech."). The public also has an interest in academic and scientific
 12 freedom that allows for investigation and debate on matters of public concern, including
 13 potentially controversial issues that involve public health such as COVID-19. *C.f. Demers*
 14 *v. Austin*, 746 F.3d 402 (9th Cir. 2014) (recognizing a public interest in academic speech);
 15 *Molinelli-Freytes v. Univ. of Puerto Rico*, 792 F.Supp.2d 150, 163 (D. P.R. 2010)
 16 (recognizing a public interest in scientific research). T&F has already published both the
 17 Article and criticism of the Article, which allows the public and the academic and scientific
 18 communities to evaluate competing viewpoints and concerns. No public interest is served
 19 in retracting the Article more than two years after its publication.

20 Arguably, Dr. Marchand would have had no legal right to have the Article published
 21 if the Journal had exercised its editorial discretion in 2023 to reject the Article and declined
 22 publication. But in late 2025, the Journal cannot properly retract the Article in violation of
 23 its policies and COPE's guidelines after the Journal fully vetted the Article and subjected it
 24 to thorough peer review, decided to accept the Article, took Dr. Marchand's money for
 25 publishing charges, and published the Article online for the public. It would not serve the
 26 public interest to sanction T&F's breach of the parties' contract and allow T&F to hide or
 27 discredit the Article based on political and/or monetary interests of biased third parties.

28 **III. Conclusion.**



1 For these and the foregoing reasons, the Court should enter a temporary restraining
2 order and preliminary injunction that prevents T&F from breaching the parties' contract,
3 from retracting the Article, from defaming Dr. Marchand, and from publicly placing Dr.
4 Marchand in a false light.

5 DATED this 24th day of November, 2025.

6

7 By /s/ Aaron T. Martin

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