

Editorial. Thirteen Years of Free Publication: From the Optimistic Horizons to Failure and Discreditation

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We would like to express our gratitude to all Authors, Reviewers, and Editorial Board Members that support this project unconditionally. We are also grateful to all scientists involved in this project since 2011 or who joined during the years. Volume 13, for the year 2023, was completed on April 11, 2023. It was composed of 600 papers, published free of charge. Now, it starts Volume 14, for 2024, with ~8 months in advance.

It seems that our dedication and passion for science were flagged as “unrelated” by “a new, internally developed AI tool to help us identify outlier characteristics that indicate that a journal may no longer meet our quality criteria”¹.

In the following, from the optimistic horizons to failure and discreditation.

(i) Optimistic horizons

On July 26, 2022, Clarivate Analytics released an article on its website that announced changes to the 2023 Journal Citation Reports². A part of their text is presented in Figure 1.

London, U.K., July 26, 2022 – Clarivate Plc (NYSE:CLVT), a global leader in providing trusted information and insights to accelerate the pace of innovation, today announced that in the 2023 release of the Journal Citation Reports™, all Web of Science Core Collection™ journals will receive a Journal Impact Factor (JIF)™. This means expanding the JIF from Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE)™ and Social Science Citation Index (SSCI)™ to include journals from the Arts and Humanities Citation Index (AHCI)™ and the multidisciplinary Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI)™.

The annual JCR release enables the research community, publishers and librarians to evaluate and compare the scholarly impact of the world's high-quality journals using a range of indicators, descriptive data and visualizations.

By expanding the JIF to all journals that have passed the rigorous Web of Science quality criteria, this latest enhancement helps level the playing field for all quality journals including recently-launched journals, open access journals, journals with a niche or regionally-focused scope and journals from the Global South.

It means that:

- Almost **9,000** journals – from more than 3,000 publishers, many of which are smaller publishers from the developing world – will have a JIF for the first time.
- There will be an **8% increase** in gold open access journals that will have a JIF.
- There will be a minimum **5% increase** in journals from the Global South⁽¹⁾ that will have a JIF.

Figure 1. Print-screen from Clarivate analytics website.

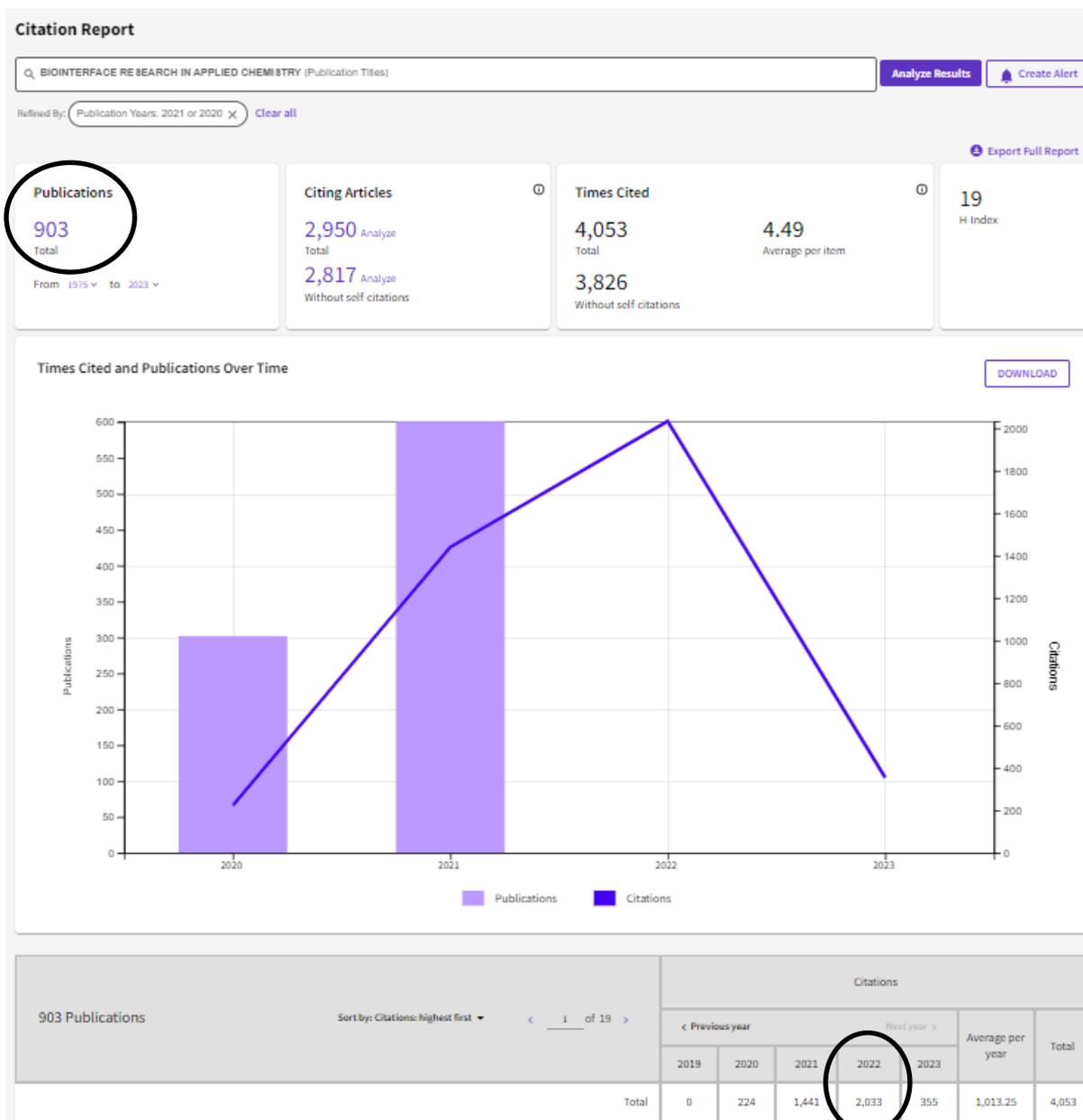


Figure 2. The citation profile (related to the published papers from 2020 and 2021) of Biointerface Research in Applied Chemistry from www.webofscience.com

According to Figure 2 (accessed at the beginning of 2023), 903 publications were indexed in 2020 and 2021. These 903 publications brought 2033 citations in 2022. Based on the classical formula for impact factor calculation, the result is an impact factor ~2.25 (let's say ~ 2) that, according to their announcement, should be received on June 2023.

(ii) Failure

On February 16, 2023, we received an email from the Department of Editorial Relations (Figure 3) informing us that the journal Biointerface Research in Applied Chemistry does not meet **Content Relevance and Peer Review requirements**. The following email (Figure 4) was received on February 28, 2023, **presenting arguments supporting the Content Relevance issue without explaining the Peer Review unmet criteria**.

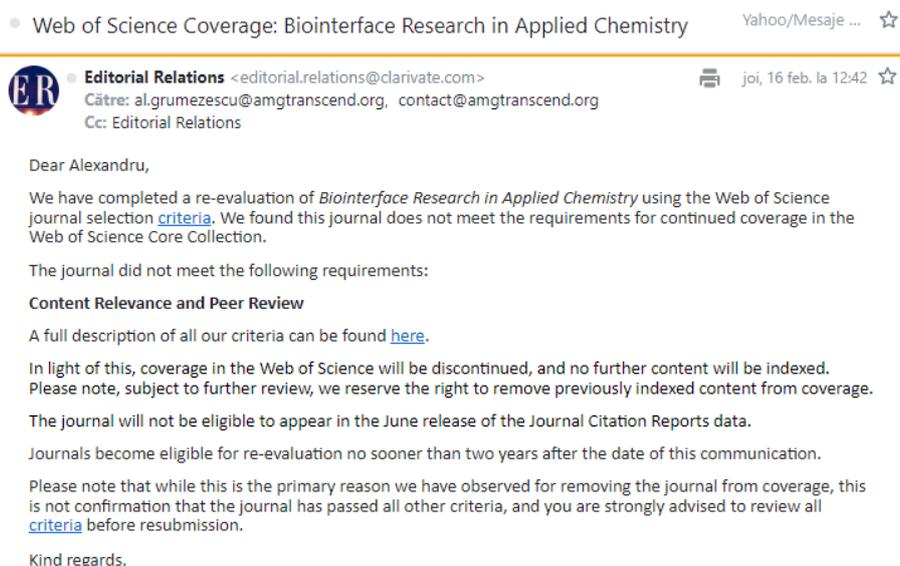


Figure 3. A print screen with the email received on February 16, 2023, from Editorial Relations.

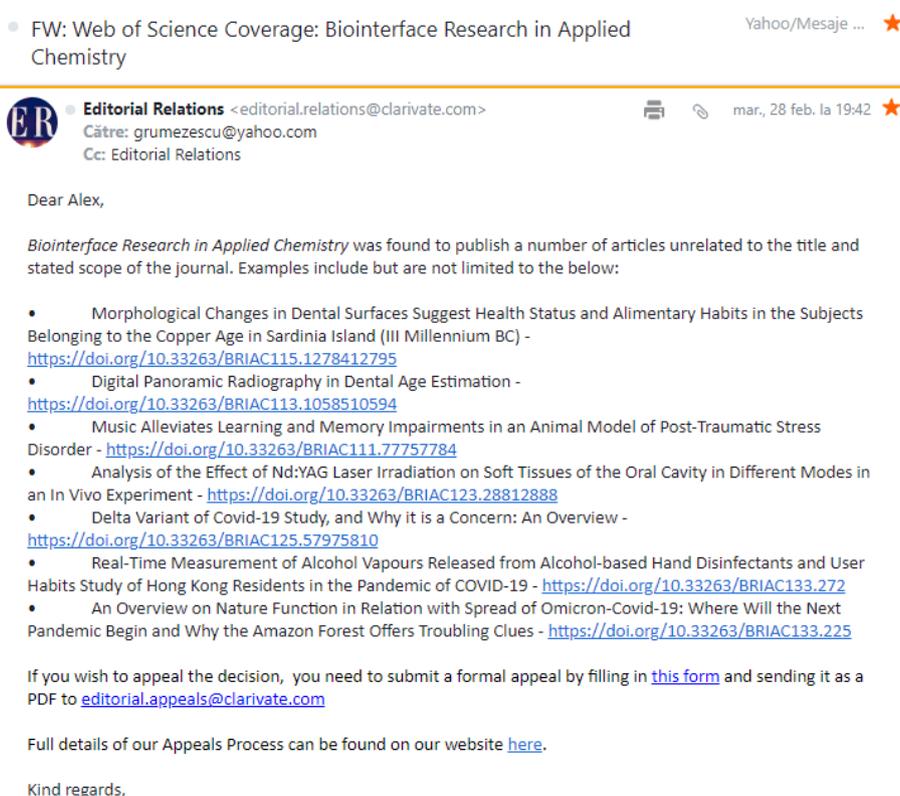


Figure 4. A print screen with the email received on February 28, 2023, from Editorial Relations.

Herein, I am aiming to clarify the two signaled problems.

The first one, **CONTENT RELEVANCE**.

The journal has been assigned by default to the category “Chemistry, Applied”, without any involvement from us in this decision. Nonetheless, the journal is also focused on interdisciplinary research, including aspects of bioscience, as is CLEARLY indicated by its title (“Biointerface”) and stated in the journal’s scope (https://biointerfaceresearch.com/?page_id=83). All subtopics available on this link belong to Applied Chemistry, and their position is consolidated by the word “BIOINTERFACE” available in the journal’s title.

The articles selected in support of the “**content relevance**” issue fall within the title and scope of our journal, being correlated with “*bio*” topics encouraged for publication on our website.

Moreover, I have performed an internal analysis of other journal titles included in the SCIE database in the “**Chemistry, Applied**” section. For each of the articles considered unrelated to this subject, we have identified in various journals from quartiles 1 to 4 several similar articles, as enlisted below.

Selected article as “unrelated” by Clarivate: *Morphological Changes in Dental Surfaces Suggest Health Status and Alimentary Habits in the Subjects Belonging to the Copper Age in Sardinia Island (III Millennium BC)*
- <https://doi.org/10.33263/BRIAC115.1278412795>

Examples of similar “**unrelated**” articles published in journals that belong to **SCIE – Chemistry, Applied:**

- (a) Article published on a similar topic in “International Journal of Biological Macromolecules”, listed in CHEMISTRY, APPLIED in SCIE edition, Q1, IF 8.025, ISSN 0141-8130/ 1879-0003. Art 1: Non-Invasive and Spectroscopic Techniques for the Study of Alonso Cano's Visitation from the Golden Age of Spain, <https://doi.org/10.1080/00393630.2020.1830528>, WOS:000579693200001.
- (b) Article published on a similar topic in “Journal of Near Infrared Spectroscopy”, listed in CHEMISTRY, APPLIED in SCIE edition, Q3, IF 1.576, ISSN 0967-0335/1751-6552. Art 1: Near infrared spectroscopy in the characterisation of intact human teeth inside and outside custody bags, <https://doi.org/10.1177/0967033520980863>, WOS:000610288100001.
- (c) Article published on a similar topic in “Chemistry & Industry”, listed in CHEMISTRY, APPLIED in SCIE edition, Q4, IF 0.232, ISSN 0009-3068. Art 1: A TOOTH FOR A TOOTH - CERAMICS IN MODERN DENTISTRY, WOS:A1986E293300009.
- (d) Article published on a similar topic in “Dyes and Pigments”, listed in CHEMISTRY, APPLIED in SCIE edition, Q4, IF 5.122, ISSN 0143-7208/1873-3743. Art 1: Chemical analysis of dyes on an Uzbek ceremonial coat: Objective evidence for artifact dating and the chemistry of early synthetic dyes, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dyepig.2016.04.019>, WOS:000377823700035.
- (e) Article published on a similar topic in “Journal of The American Leather Chemists Association”, listed in CHEMISTRY, APPLIED in SCIE edition, Q4, IF 0.868, ISSN 0002-9726. Art 1: LEATHER RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE AGE OF CHROME, WOS:A1991GV29500003.

Selected article as “unrelated” by Clarivate: *Digital Panoramic Radiography in Dental Age Estimation* - <https://doi.org/10.33263/BRIAC113.1058510594>

Examples of similar “**unrelated**” articles published in journals that belong to **SCIE – Chemistry, Applied:**

- (a) Article published on a similar topic in “International Journal of Biological Macromolecules”, listed in CHEMISTRY, APPLIED in SCIE edition, Q1, IF 8.025, ISSN 0141-8130/ 1879-0003. Art 1: Radiopaque fibrin nanocomplex as a promising tool for X-

ray imaging applications, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijbiomac.2021.12.164>, WOS:000797931800003.

- (b) Article published on a similar topic in “Studies in conservation”, listed in CHEMISTRY, APPLIED in SCIE edition, Q4, IF 0.847, ISSN 0039-3630. Art 1: On the occurrence of magnesium phosphates on ivory, <https://doi.org/10.2307/1506869>, WOS:000179342300002. Art 2: Technical Analysis and Attribution of an Unknown Henryk Siemiradzki Nineteenth Century Painting The Feast of Dionysius I, Revealing a Hidden Composition, <https://doi.org/10.1080/00393630.2021.1898884>, WOS:000632276900001. Art 3: Distribution of moisture in reconstructed oil paintings on canvas during absorption and drying: A neutron radiography and NMR study, <https://doi.org/10.1080/00393630.2016.1181899>, WOS:000410838500003. Art 4: New trends in art conservation, the use of lasers to clean as well as generate an augmented reality representation of an iconic public monument in bronze: The Alma Mater, <https://doi.org/10.1179/0039363015Z.000000000210>, WOS:000361112500011.

Selected article as “unrelated” by Clarivate: *Music Alleviates Learning and Memory Impairments in an Animal Model of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder* - <https://doi.org/10.33263/BRIAC111.77757784>

Examples of similar “unrelated” articles published in journals that belong to SCIE – Chemistry, Applied:

- (a) Article published on a similar topic in “International Journal of Biological Macromolecules”, listed in CHEMISTRY, APPLIED in SCIE edition, Q1, IF 8.025, ISSN 0141-8130/ 1879-0003. Art 1: Effect of real-world sounds on protein crystallization, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijbiomac.2018.02.028>, WOS:000430522400099. Art 2: Innovative protein translation into music and color image applicable for assessing protein alignment based on bio-mimicking human perception system, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijbiomac.2018.07.185>, WOS:000447682100101.
- (b) Article published on a similar topic in “Journal of Near Infrared Spectroscopy”, listed in CHEMISTRY, APPLIED in SCIE edition, Q3, IF 1.576, ISSN 0967-0335/1751-6552. Art 1: A dynamical method for calculating the near infrared spectra of molecules and macromolecules, <https://doi.org/10.1255/jnirs.273>, WOS:000086518800008.
- (c) Article published on a similar topic in “Chemistry & Industry”, listed in CHEMISTRY, APPLIED in SCIE edition, Q4, IF 0.232, ISSN 0009-3068. Art 1: New way to sniff out good music, WOS:000233533900015. Art 1: Microfluidics Music-driven lab-on-a-chip hits the right notes, WOS:000268984800012.
- (d) Article published on a similar topic in “Studies in conservation”, listed in CHEMISTRY, APPLIED in SCIE edition, Q4, IF 0.847, ISSN 0039-3630. Art 1: Where contemporary art and contemporary music preservation practices meet: The case of Salt Itinerary, <https://doi.org/10.1080/00393630.2016.1188251>, WOS:000384462200027. Art 2: Variants of Concern: Authenticity, Conservation, and the Type-Token Distinction, <https://doi.org/10.1080/00393630.2021.1974237>, WOS:000698930600001.

Selected article as “unrelated” by Clarivate: *Analysis of the Effect of Nd:YAG Laser Irradiation on Soft Tissues of the Oral Cavity in Different Modes in an In Vivo Experiment - <https://doi.org/10.33263/BRIAC123.28812888>*

Examples of similar “unrelated” articles published in journals that belong to SCIE – **Chemistry, Applied:**

- (a) Article published on a similar topic in “Studies in conservation”, listed in CHEMISTRY, APPLIED in SCIE edition, Q4, IF 0.847, ISSN 0039-3630. Art 1: Feasibility studies on applying UV-lasers for the removal of superficial deposits from historic glass, <https://doi.org/10.2307/1506810>, WOS:000172094500005. Art 2: Laser cleaning of paper: Cleaning efficiency and irradiation dose, <https://doi.org/10.1179/0039363015Z.000000000214>, WOS:000361112500015.
- (b) Article published on a similar topic in “International Journal of Biological Macromolecules”, listed in CHEMISTRY, APPLIED in SCIE edition, Q1, IF 8.025, ISSN 0141-8130/ 1879-0003. Art 1: Polysaccharide from Pimpinella anisum seeds: Structural characterization, anti-inflammatory and laser burn wound healing in mice, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijbiomac.2019.11.201>, WOS:000538104200153. Art 2: Falkenbergia rufolanosa polysaccharide - Poly(vinyl alcohol) composite films: A promising wound healing agent against dermal laser burns in rats, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijbiomac.2019.09.173>, WOS:000515200700099.
- (c) Article published on a similar topic in “Journal of Near Infrared Spectroscopy”, listed in CHEMISTRY, APPLIED in SCIE edition, Q3, IF 1.576, ISSN 0967-0335/1751-6552. Art 1: Simulation and in vivo investigation of LED-NIR Gaussian beam profile, <https://doi.org/10.1177/0967033519884209>, WOS:000495489900001. Art 2: Functional near infrared spectroscopy in psychiatry: a critical review, <https://doi.org/10.1255/jnirs.970>, WOS:000305041000009. Art 3: Medical applications of reflectance spectroscopy in the diffusive and sub-diffusive regimes, <https://doi.org/10.1177/0967033518806637>, WOS:000454445200001. Art 4: Comparative in vitro and non-invasive in vivo Kromoscopic measurements, <https://doi.org/10.1255/jnirs.332>, WOS:000178001200001.

Selected article as “unrelated” by Clarivate: *Delta Variant of Covid-19 Study, and Why it is a Concern: An Overview - <https://doi.org/10.33263/BRIAC125.57975810>*

Examples of similar “unrelated” articles published in journals that belong to SCIE – **Chemistry, Applied:**

- (a) Articles published on a similar topic in “International Journal of Biological Macromolecules”, listed in CHEMISTRY, APPLIED in SCIE edition, Q1, IF 8.025, ISSN 0141-8130/ 1879-0003. Art 1: SARS-COV-2, infection, transmission, transcription, translation, proteins, and treatment: A review, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijbiomac.2021.10.172>, WOS:000734393000013. Art 2: The human pandemic coronaviruses on the show: The spike glycoprotein as the main actor in the coronaviruses play, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijbiomac.2021.02.203>, WOS:000645619400001. Art 3: Review on oxidative stress relation on COVID-19: Biomolecular and bioanalytical approach, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijbiomac.2021.08.095>, WOS:000702867500004. Art 4: COVID-

- 19 Diagnosis: Current and Future Techniques,
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijbiomac.2021.11.016>, WOS:000734374500009. Art 5: Novel insights into the treatment of SARS-CoV-2 infection: An overview of current clinical trials, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijbiomac.2020.09.204>, WOS:000600768200003.
- (b) Article published on a similar topic in “Journal of the Science of Food and Agriculture”, listed in CHEMISTRY, APPLIED in SCIE edition, Q2, IF 4.125, ISSN 0022-5142/ 1097-0010. Art 1: Indian spices: past, present and future challenges as the engine for bio-enhancement of drugs: impact of COVID-19, <https://doi.org/10.1002/jsfa.11771>, WOS:000751503600001.
- (c) Article published on a similar topic in “Plant Foods for Human Nutrition”, listed in CHEMISTRY, APPLIED in SCIE edition, Q2, IF 4.124, ISSN 0921-9668 / 1573-9104. Art 1: The Young Age and Plant-Based Diet Hypothesis for Low SARS-CoV-2 Infection and COVID-19 Pandemic in Sub-Saharan Africa, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11130-021-00907-6>, WOS:000665766100002.
- (d) Article published on a similar topic in “Molecular Diversity”, listed in CHEMISTRY, APPLIED in SCIE edition, Q2, IF 3.364, ISSN 1381-1991 / 1573-501X. Art 1: Curse of La Corona: unravelling the scientific and psychological conundrums of the 21st century pandemic, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11030-020-10167-2>, WOS:000604510700002.
- (e) Article published on a similar topic in “Indian Journal of Chemical Technology”, listed in CHEMISTRY, APPLIED in SCIE edition, Q4, IF 0.76, ISSN 0971-457X / 0975-0991. Art 1: Report on COVID-19 in children: Threats and Precautions, WOS:000682793400015. Art 2: A policy Dialogue on COVID-19 Vaccine from Vaccine Self-Reliance to Global leadership, Opportunities, Challenges, and policy Imperatives in Covid Era: Brief Report, WOS:000682793400016.
- (f) Article published on a similar topic in “Chemistry & Industry”, listed in CHEMISTRY, APPLIED in SCIE edition, Q4, IF 0.232, ISSN 0009-3068. Art 1: Covid-19: The pandemic that never should have happened and how to stop the next one, https://doi.org/10.1002/cind.8412_10.x, WOS:000600770200008. Art 2: Covid opportunity for India, https://doi.org/10.1002/cind.5_845.x, WOS:000534653700003. Art 3: Covid-19 transmission study, WOS:000612102500003.
- (g) Article published on a similar topic in “Surface Coatings International”, listed in CHEMISTRY, APPLIED in SCIE edition, Q4, IF 0.023, ISSN 1754-0925. Art 1: COVID-19-An end in sight?, WOS:000830066700004. Art 2: Industry responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, WOS:000559893100007. Art 3: The financial Impact of COVID-19 on the coatings industry: Q1 2020, WOS:000559893100009. Art 4: Fighting the Covid-19 Outbreak - Surface Science/Coatings Connections to beat the infections, WOS:000559893100001. Art 5: Anti-viral surfaces could tackle COVID-19 crisis, WOS:000559893100010.
- (h) Article published on a similar topic in “Annual Review of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering”, listed in CHEMISTRY, APPLIED in SCIE edition, Q1, IF 9.7, ISSN 1947-5438/1947-5446. Art 1: Airborne Transmission of SARS-CoV-2: Evidence and Implications for Engineering Controls, <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-chembioeng-092220-111631>, WOS:000819171900007.
- (i) Article published on a similar topic in “Food Chemistry”, listed in CHEMISTRY, APPLIED in SCIE edition, Q1, IF 9.231, ISSN 0308-8146 / 1873-7072. Art 1: The global concern of

food security during the COVID-19 pandemic: Impacts and perspectives on food security, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foodchem.2021.130830>, WOS:000710515600007.

- (j) Article published on a similar topic in “Organic Process Research & Development”, listed in CHEMISTRY, APPLIED in SCIE edition, Q2, IF 3.858, ISSN 1083-6160 / 1520-586X. Art 1: Quest for a COVID-19 Cure by Repurposing Small-Molecule Drugs: Mechanism of Action, Clinical Development, Synthesis at Scale, and Outlook for Supply, <https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.oprd.0c00233>, WOS:000543672300004.

Selected article as “unrelated” by Clarivate: *Real-Time Measurement of Alcohol Vapours Released from Alcohol-based Hand Disinfectants and User Habits Study of Hong Kong Residents in the Pandemic of COVID-19* - <https://doi.org/10.33263/BRIAC133.272>

Examples of similar “unrelated” articles published in journals that belong to **SCIE – Chemistry, Applied:**

- (a) Articles published on a similar topic in “International Journal of Biological Macromolecules”, listed in CHEMISTRY, APPLIED in SCIE edition, Q1, IF 8.025, ISSN 0141-8130/ 1879-0003. Art 1: Dependence of ethanol effects on protein charges, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijbiomac.2014.04.041>, WOS:000338414600027. Art 2: A review on antiviral and immunomodulatory polysaccharides from Indian medicinal plants, which may be beneficial to COVID-19 infected patients, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijbiomac.2021.03.162>, WOS:000656912700014. Art 3: High throughput virtual screening reveals SARS-CoV-2 multi-target binding natural compounds to lead instant therapy for COVID-19 treatment, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijbiomac.2020.05.184>, WOS:000568758200001. Art 4: Three waves changes, new variant strains, and vaccination effect against COVID-19 pandemic, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijbiomac.2022.01.118>, WOS:000783023200005.
- (b) Article published on a similar topic in “Plant Foods for Human Nutrition”, listed in CHEMISTRY, APPLIED in SCIE edition, Q2, IF 4.124, ISSN 0921-9668 / 1573-9104. Art 1: Potential Inhibitors for SARS-CoV-2 and Functional Food Components as Nutritional Supplement for COVID-19: A Review, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11130-020-00861-9>, WOS:000578492300001.
- (c) Article published on a similar topic in “Molecular Diversity”, listed in CHEMISTRY, APPLIED in SCIE edition, Q2, IF 3.364, ISSN 1381-1991 / 1573-501X. Art 1: Therapeutics for COVID-19: from computation to practices-where we are, where we are heading to, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11030-020-10134-x>, WOS:000565478800001.
- (d) Article published on a similar topic in “Chemistry & Industry”, listed in CHEMISTRY, APPLIED in SCIE edition, Q4, IF 0.232, ISSN 0009-3068. Art 1: Oral hygiene and Covid, WOS:000662989500028. Art 2: Sanitising Covid-19, WOS:000527834300025.
- (e) Article published on a similar topic in “Studies in conservation”, listed in CHEMISTRY, APPLIED in SCIE edition, Q4, IF 0.847, ISSN 0039-3630. Art 1: Solvent Vapour Use - The Unintended Consequences in Textile Conservation, <https://doi.org/10.1080/00393630.2018.1544347>, WOS:000474363700003.
- (f) Article published on a similar topic in “Food and Agricultural Immunology”, listed in CHEMISTRY, APPLIED in SCIE edition, Q2, IF 3.268, ISSN 0954-0105/ 1465-3443. Art 1: Bovine colostrum: benefits for the human respiratory system and potential contributions

for clinical management of COVID-19, <https://doi.org/10.1080/09540105.2021.1892594>, WOS:000625797000001.

Selected article as “unrelated” by Clarivate: *An Overview on Nature Function in Relation with Spread of Omicron-Covid-19: Where Will the Next Pandemic Begin and Why the Amazon Forest Offers Troubling Clues* - <https://doi.org/10.33263/BRIAC133.225>

Examples of similar “unrelated” articles published in journals that belong to SCIE – **Chemistry, Applied:**

- (a) Articles published on a similar topic in “International Journal of Biological Macromolecules”, listed in CHEMISTRY, APPLIED in SCIE edition, Q1, IF 8.025, ISSN 0141-8130/ 1879-0003. Art 1: COVID-19 as a worldwide selective event and bitter taste receptor polymorphisms: An ecological correlational study, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijbiomac.2021.02.070>, WOS:000640398000019. Art 2: A review on antiviral and immunomodulatory polysaccharides from Indian medicinal plants, which may be beneficial to COVID-19 infected patients, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijbiomac.2021.03.162>, WOS:000656912700014. Art 3: SARS-CoV-2: Insights into its structural intricacies and functional aspects for drug and vaccine development, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijbiomac.2021.02.212>, WOS:000645619400004. Art 4: Corona virus versus existence of human on the earth: A computational and biophysical approach, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijbiomac.2020.06.007>, WOS:000570076200011. Art 5: Three waves changes, new variant strains, and vaccination effect against COVID-19 pandemic, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijbiomac.2022.01.118>, WOS:000783023200005.
- (b) Article published on a similar topic in “Journal of the Science of Food and Agriculture”, listed in CHEMISTRY, APPLIED in SCIE edition, Q2, IF 4.125, ISSN 0022-5142/ 1097-0010. Art 1: Healthy eating - a modifiable contributor to optimize healthy living in the COVID-19 pandemic: a review, <https://doi.org/10.1002/jsfa.11650>, WOS:000724153300001.
- (c) Article published on a similar topic in “Cereal Chemistry”, listed in CHEMISTRY, APPLIED in SCIE edition, Q2, IF 2.534, ISSN 0009-0352 / 1943-3638. Art 1: Covid-19: Lasting impacts on the food industry, post the pandemic, WOS:000622379300024.

The second one, **PEER REVIEW.**

All manuscripts submitted to our journal are subjected to strict single-blind peer-reviewing. After passing the initial checks by the Editorial Office, each manuscript is assigned to at least two independent experts in the field who are invited to evaluate its quality and provide recommendations to the editor on whether a manuscript can be accepted, requires revisions, or should be rejected. The independent peer-review system guarantees that all studies appearing in *Biointerface Research in Applied Chemistry* are of a high standard.

The Peer Review policy is available on the journal’s website, within the **guidelines “For authors”** (https://biointerfaceresearch.com/?page_id=4492), **“For reviewers”** (https://biointerfaceresearch.com/?page_id=4499), and **“For editors”** (https://biointerfaceresearch.com/?page_id=4504) ensuring high-transparency of reviewing protocols to all involved parties.

Moreover, *Biointerface Research in Applied Chemistry* utilizes a **dedicated online platform** (<https://jams.amgtranscend.org/>) that allows the confidential, organized, and timely execution of all publishing steps, including article submission, **peer review**, decision-making, possible authors' revision, manuscript acceptance, production, and final publication.

Thanks to the available publishing infrastructure and qualitative peer review policy, our journal only publishes well-selected manuscripts confirmed by the citations available on www.webofscience.com (figure 5). Since using the publishing platform, 2100 manuscripts were submitted to *Biointerface Research in Applied Chemistry*, of which 1266 were rejected (figure 6). Also, the journal has a database of 9653 active reviewers (figure 6).

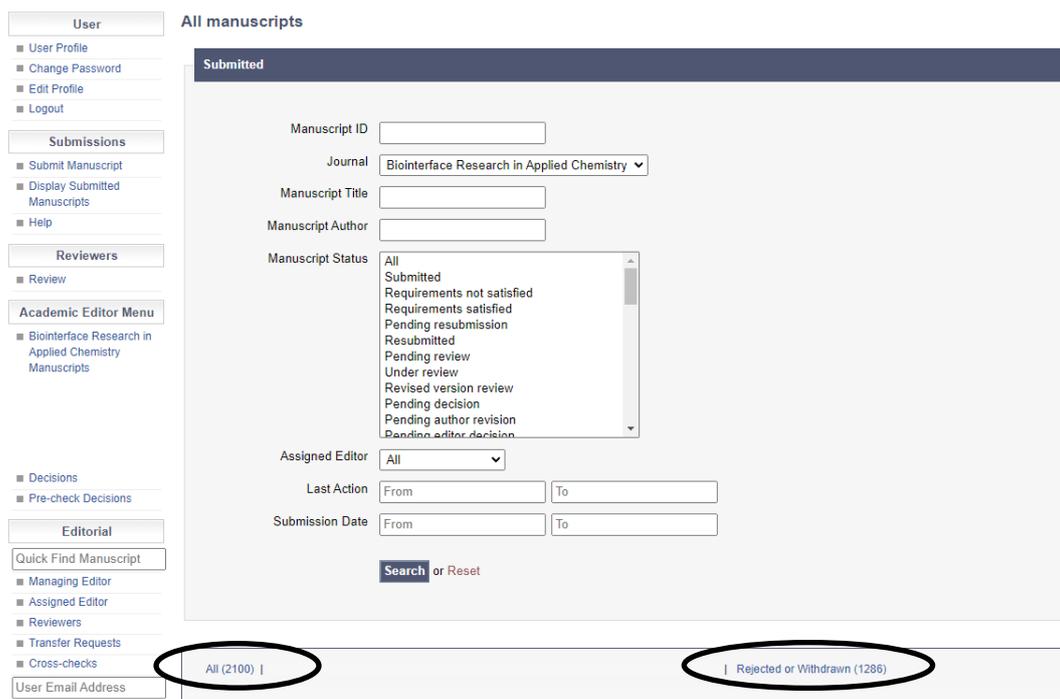


Figure 5. The main panel of *Biointerface Research in Applied Chemistry* available in the online submission system.



Figure 6. Reviewers' management available in the online submission system.

In light of above mentioned, I appealed the decision. Figure 7 highlights their final decision after the appeal.

RE: Appeals Process - Web of Science Coverage: Biointerface Research in Applied Chemistry

Yahoo/Mesaje ... ☆



Editorial Appeals <editorial.appeals@clarivate.com>

Către: Alex Grumezescu, Editorial Appeals

Cc: contact@amgtranscend.org, Editorial Relations, al.grumezescu@amgtranscend.org



vin., 14 apr. la 19:18 ☆

Dear Alexandru,

Thank you for submitting your appeal on 7 March 2023. We have reviewed the documentation, including the comparison with the content of other journals included in the 'Chemistry, Applied' category, and are upholding the original decision to discontinue coverage of *Biointerface Research in Applied Chemistry* in Web of Science.

As mentioned in our original communication,

Biointerface Research in Applied Chemistry failed our [Content Relevance](#) criterion,

which is one of our 24 quality criteria. This requires published content to be "consistent with the title and stated scope of the journal". This means we compare content published in the journal with the title of the journal and the aims and scope stated by the journal. The presence of out-of-scope articles indicates a lack of rigor in ensuring published content is consistent with the stated aims and scope of the journal. This is independent of the category to which the journal is assigned in the Web of Science.

Our evaluation found content published in the journal that falls outside of the title and stated aims and scope of the journal, as per the examples provided in our previous correspondence.

The above work is neither biointerface research nor applied chemistry.

Please note this is our final decision.

Best regards,

Figure 7. A print screen with the email received on April 14, 2023, from Editorial Appeals.

(iii) Discreditation

Without any right of reply³ to contest the decision before their public announcement, or to ask about our official point of view, or to be able to bring arguments to support the allegations, all became a "witch hunt", where the *Biointerface Research in Applied Chemistry* was added to a shaming list consisting of 83 journals⁴ or 82 journals^{5,6}, even if **each journal has a distinct background, experience or proofs**.

Also, this kind of response (figure 7) appears incompatible with ethics⁷, transparency⁸ and "supporting integrity of the scholarly record"¹, and an objective reexamination of the entire context would be highly useful.

(iv) Conclusions

Clarivate Analytics should have the responsibility to clarify (**to define or to rephrase**) to the researchers' community worldwide the following affirmation "The Institute for Scientific Information (ISI)TM at Clarivate **has a long history of promoting integrity** in research and evaluation"². In order to maintain the validity of this principle, I see as imperative a closer analysis of the aforementioned issues.

In the end, before the publication of this Editorial, Clarivate Analytics was asked for a point of view. Their answer is available in Figure 8.

RE: Appeals Process - Web of Science Coverage: Biointerface Research in Applied Chemistry

Yahoo/Mesaje ... ☆



● Editorial Appeals <editorial.appeals@clarivate.com>

Către: Alex Grumezescu, Editorial Appeals

Cc: contact@amgtranscend.org, Editorial Relations, al.grumezescu@amgtranscend.org



vin, 21 apr. la 22:55 ☆

Dear Alex,

Many thanks for sharing this Editorial with us and for your offer to publish a response.

While we do not have anything to add to the information we have already provided, we wish to draw your attention to the following [blog post](#), which places our editorial decision into a broader context.

Best regards,

Figure 8. Clarivate Analytics' point of view about this Editorial. The link on the email refers to [1].

Keywords: Clarivate Analytics; platinum open access; appeal; peer-review; content relevance; discreditation; integrity.

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References

1. <https://clarivate.com/blog/supporting-integrity-of-the-scholarly-record-our-commitment-to-curation-and-selectivity-in-the-web-of-science/>
2. <https://clarivate.com/news/clarivate-announces-changes-to-the-2023-journal-citation-reports/>
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