

Draft

THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF NEUROPSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY (ACNP) HAD OFFERED ME AN EXTENSION TO MY FIVE-YEAR TERM AS EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF THE JOURNAL NEUROPSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY (THE CURRENT TERM WAS DUE TO EXPIRE IN DECEMBER 2006). BECAUSE OF THE ADVERSE PUBLICITY TO THE JOURNAL AND THE ACNP ASSOCIATED WITH THE PUBLICATION OF A REVIEW ARTICLE ON VAGUS NERVE STIMULATION IN WHICH I WAS A CO-AUTHOR, I HAVE DECIDED NOT TO ACCEPT A RE-APPOINTMENT TO THIS EDITORSHIP. THE CONTROVERSY ABOUT THIS MANUSCRIPT WAS DUE TO AN UNFORTUNATE CLERICAL OVERSIGHT IN WHICH THE FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE OF ALL AUTHORS WAS OMITTED FROM THE PUBLISHED MANUSCRIPT. A CORRECTION REGARDING THAT INFORMATION HAS BEEN PUBLISHED IN THE JOURNAL. FOR THE RECORD, LET ME NOTE ONCE AGAIN THAT I AND MY CO-AUTHORS DID SUBMIT A FULL DISCLOSURE TO THE JOURNAL ALONG WITH OUR MANUSCRIPT. I AM SATISFIED THAT WE AS AUTHORS FOLLOWED ALL OF THE RULES AND PROTOCOLS OF MEDICAL PUBLISHING. HOWEVER THE CONTROVERSY HAS BECOME DISTRACTING TO THE MISSION OF THE JOURNAL. I WILL SERVE OUT MY TERM AS EDITOR.

**Subject:** Nemeroff - WSJ  
**Date:** Monday, August 28, 2006 10:41 AM  
**From:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@emory.edu>  
**To:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@emory.edu>, [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@emory.edu>  
**Conversation:** Nemeroff - WSJ

Article 61

Who's News

Medical Journal Editor Nemeroff Steps Down Over Undisclosed Ties

By David Armstrong

266 words

28 August 2006

The Wall Street Journal

B7

English

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BOSTON -- The editor of the journal Neuropsychopharmacology, Charles Nemeroff, is stepping down after he wrote a favorable review of a new device for treating depression that didn't disclose his financial ties to the device's maker.

The journal, which carried the article, has published a correction citing Dr. Nemeroff's ties to the device maker and those of the article's other eight authors. In addition to Dr. Nemeroff, seven of the authors were academics who serve as consultants to the maker of the device, and one was an employee of the company, Cyberonics Inc., of Houston. The authors' relationships to Cyberonics were reported in the The Wall Street Journal last month.

Dr. Nemeroff, chairman of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Emory University in Atlanta, couldn't be reached for comment.

In an email Friday, the owner of the medical journal said Dr. Nemeroff had decided to step down as editor. The email said his decision was "in part, based on the recent adverse publicity to the journal." The medical journal is published by the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology, a medical society of scientists and physicians who study the brain and behavior.

Last month, the journal published a review in which it said the Cyberonics treatment, in which a small device is implanted in the chest to deliver mild electrical pulses to the vagus nerve in the neck, is "a promising and well-tolerated intervention that is effective in a subset of patients with treatment-resistant depression."

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UI 22.11.0 - Thursday, July 20, 2006 8:28:37 AM

██████████  
Health Sciences Communications  
1440 Clifton Road, NE  
Suite 105  
Atlanta, GA 30322  
██████████

**Subject: RE: Nemeroff Alert**

**Date: Monday, August 28, 2006 1:48 PM**

**From: Adkison, Claudia R <[REDACTED]@emory.edu>**

**To: "[REDACTED]" <[REDACTED]@emory.edu>, "[REDACTED]" <[REDACTED]@emory.edu>, "[REDACTED]" <[REDACTED]@emory.edu>, Thomas Lawley <[REDACTED]@emory.edu>**

**Cc: "[REDACTED]" <[REDACTED]@emory.edu>, [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@emory.edu>**

**Conversation: Nemeroff Alert**

Charlie's statement is fine, with an edit of the red part added by Ron, as I have already communicated to him. That takes care of Charlie's response. Below I said what Emory's response should be, if asked, in my opinion.

-----Original Message-----

**From: [REDACTED] M E**

**Sent: Monday, August 28, 2006 1:40 PM**

**To: [REDACTED]; Adkison, Claudia R; [REDACTED]; 'Thomas Lawley'**

**Cc: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]**

**Subject: RE: Nemeroff Alert**

A good statemnt that looks like it is written by Charlie from his point of view.

Sent from my GoodLink synchronized handheld (www.good.com)

[REDACTED], M.D.

EVPHA

CEO Woodruff Health Sciences Center

Emory University

-----Original Message-----

**From: [REDACTED]**

**Sent: Monday, August 28, 2006 01:30 PM Eastern Standard Time**

**To: Adkison, Claudia R; [REDACTED]; 'Thomas Lawley'; [REDACTED]**

**[REDACTED]**

**Cc: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]**

**Subject: RE: Nemeroff Alert**

Claudia,

That may invite the suspicion that Emory is following some course of action with regard to Dr. Nemeroff which we are not willing to disclose. Are we prepared to live with that inference?

Attached is a statement on behalf of Dr. Nemeroff himself, dictated to [REDACTED] from Amsterdam, which we are prepared to release for him in his absence. The sentence in red is my own addition based on previous discussions. We will not release it until he has approved it in full. Do you know of any reason why we should not proceed with this plan?

-----Original Message-----

**From: Adkison, Claudia R**

**Sent: Monday, August 28, 2006 1:27 PM**

**To: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; Thomas Lawley; [REDACTED]**

Cc: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: Nemeroff Alert

Say:

1. The matter of the editorship lies between Dr. Nemeroff and the Journal.
2. Emory University School of Medicine takes conflict of interest matters extremely seriously and deals with them appropriately.

If the reporter asks about Dr. Nemeroff in particular, say:

We do not comment on considerations involving individual faculty members.

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, August 28, 2006 12:31 PM  
To: [REDACTED]; Thomas Lawley; Adkison, Claudia R; [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]  
Subject: Re: Nemeroff Alert  
Importance: High

We are contacting Dr. Nemeroff now to get his position. Dr. Johns/Dean Lawley: who should I go to first to start on Emory's position w/regard to Nemeroff?

On 8/28/06 12:03 PM, "Sauder, Ron" <[REDACTED]@emory.edu> wrote:

- > [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED]:
- >
- > Unfortunately Friday evening's Wall Street Journal article about
- > Charlie's resignation as editor of Neuropsychopharmacology has got
- > legs.
- > We are going to have to decide how to respond to additional media
- > queries -- the AJC and Bloomberg News have both called today. Charlie
- > is in Amsterdam.
- >
- > We have to clarify two different things:
- >
- > (1) What is Charlie's position - did he resign, did he decline
- > reappointment, why in either case, what is his official statement as
- > to whether he disclosed properly in his published article. This can be
- >
- > a one-para statement we develop, he signs off on and we release for
- > him.
- > But it needs to be crystal-clear.
- >
- > (2) What is Emory's position with regard to Charlie, the resignation
- > and his disclosure? Obviously there are a range of positions Emory
- > could take. Here are three from one extreme to the other:

>  
> - This is totally a matter between Dr. Nemeroff and the journal. We  
> regard this as an editorial question that comes up frequently in  
> science and medicine and we believe both parties have acted in what  
> their best interest and the best interest of the scientific community.  
>  
> - The question of proper disclosure is an issue of growing importance  
> in medical science. We have discussed this particular case with Dr.  
> Nemeroff and based on a review of all the facts we are confident that  
> he disclosed all of his interests properly to the journal. What the  
> journal then printed is a matter of editorial policy and procedure  
> that the journal itself will have to review. However there is no  
> remaining issue or question that concerns the Emory School of  
> Medicine.  
>  
> - This episode raises important issues and questions that merit  
> further review by the Emory School of Medicine. While we believe Dr.  
> Nemeroff acted properly, based on the information available to us, we  
> also believe that we may need to do more to communicate conflict of  
> interests policies and protocols generally to our faculty to avoid  
> even the faintest appearance of impropriety in the future ... Etc.  
>  
> You get the idea. What's Charlie's statement. What's Emory's response.  
> We need both, and we need them as soon as possible this afternoon.  
>  
> [REDACTED] will contact you all directly when he is back in the office from  
> an RSPH faculty retreat in a few minutes.  
>  
> Thanks  
>  
> [REDACTED]  
>  
> -----Original Message-----  
> From: [REDACTED]  
> Sent: Monday, August 28, 2006 11:40 AM  
> To: [REDACTED]  
> Subject: Nemeroff  
>  
> Jeff is leaving retreat and heading for the office. I'm calling  
> Nemeroff  
> to see when he's available for a conference call. AJC is HOT on this  
> story  
> - wants comment from Emory.  
>

--  
[REDACTED]  
Associate Vice President  
Health Sciences Communications  
Emory University  
1440 Clifton Road NE  
Suite 105  
Atlanta, GA 30322  
[REDACTED] office  
[REDACTED] fax

**Subject: RE: Nemeroff Alert**

**Date: Monday, August 28, 2006 1:26 PM**

**From: Adkison, Claudia R** <[REDACTED]@emory.edu>

**To:** "[REDACTED]" <[REDACTED]@emory.edu>, "[REDACTED]" <[REDACTED]@emory.edu>, Thomas Lawley <[REDACTED]@emory.edu>, "[REDACTED]" <[REDACTED]@emory.edu>

**Cc:** "[REDACTED]" <[REDACTED]@emory.edu>, [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@emory.edu>

**Conversation: Nemeroff Alert**

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-----Original Message-----

**From:** Molter, Jeffrey L

**Sent:** Monday, August 28, 2006 12:31 PM

**To:** [REDACTED]; Thomas Lawley; Adkison, Claudia R; Johns, Michael M E

**Cc:** [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Re: Nemeroff Alert

**Importance:** High

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- > Mike, Tom, Claudia:
- >
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- > Charlie's resignation as editor of Neuropsychopharmacology has got
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- > queries -- the AJC and Bloomberg News have both called today. Charlie
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> Subject: Nemeroff  
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> Nemeroff  
> to see when he's available for a conference call. AJC is HOT on this



> story  
> - wants comment from Emory.  
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-  
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