



Dear ACS Author:

I am writing to inform you about important aspects of copyright enforcement actions that ACS is undertaking with regard to the venture-capital backed content sharing network, ResearchGate. ResearchGate currently amasses, modifies and illegitimately distributes millions of copyrighted journal articles without permission or licence for its commercial gain.

We do not take this action lightly and recognize the potential useful role ResearchGate has to play within the scientific communication ecosystem. At present, however, its business practices include the widespread distribution of intellectual property of others that it has illicitly amassed, largely in the form of copyrighted journal articles, in order to promote user traffic to its site in a fashion that undermines the integrity of scholarly publishing.

Attempts by ACS and other societies and publishers to agree with ResearchGate on an approach that would facilitate the sharing of published articles in a copyright-compliant manner have failed. While we recognize that ResearchGate has recently moved from public view a significant number of ACS copyrighted articles it has collected on its site, not all its infringing violations have been addressed. ResearchGate needs to take additional steps to cease its unauthorized use of copyrighted content for its commercial activities.

ResearchGate has not made any formal comment on this, leaving us with no other option but to adhere to its assertion that the only recourse for rights holders is to submit formal Take Down Notices (TDNs) for copyrighted content that appears on its site. Accordingly, ACS has joined with a coalition of scientific and scholarly publishers to take necessary steps, including but not limited to TDNs, to force ResearchGate to cease its damaging practices. Statements explaining the coalition's actions in more detail, along with FAQs, may be found at the informational website www.responsiblesharing.org.

As a result, ACS is now sending formal notices to ResearchGate to request removal of any ACS-copyrighted content from its site. Of utmost importance is that you know that we are issuing these TDNs to ResearchGate, a for-profit company funded by commercial investors and venture capitalists, and not to authors or other individuals who may have uploaded copyrighted articles to the ResearchGate website. We think it important, however, to inform our authors at this time that when ResearchGate is found to hold a published work for which ACS holds copyright, we will insist that the infringing content is removed.

If you soon find that an article you have authored no longer appears on ResearchGate, it may be because ResearchGate has acted upon our takedown request or has itself undertaken its removal from public availability. If you think your article was removed in error, or if you wish to repost it to ResearchGate for

open dissemination, you may do so by contacting us with the Digital Object Identifier (DOI) for your article and confirming arrangements for an ACS AuthorChoice via Creative Commons CC-BY open access license. As you know, under those specific license terms, authors are permitted to post the published article on content sharing sites that are commercial in nature, such as ResearchGate, and others are allowed to use and modify the published article for commercial as well as non-commercial purposes. We encourage you to reach out to a member of our Customer Service staff at support@services.acs.org or +1.800.227.9919 to obtain the needed license. Please note that any journal articles published by authors via an ACS AuthorChoice via Creative Commons CC-BY licence are not subject to takedown requests by ACS.

ACS offers you a number of ways to share your research with colleagues in the global scientific community in a copyright-compliant fashion. We invite you to review some helpful [guidelines for ACS authors](#). In addition, background information on how ACS and other publishers encourage authors to share their published work can be found at [How Can I Share It](#), an informative website that offers an overview of copyright-compliant sharing platforms, and outlines how authors can share their publications readily and responsibly.

We thank you, our valued ACS authors, for your understanding and support as we undertake these efforts. We assure you that our Society is committed to protecting the integrity of the peer-reviewed scientific research that you entrust us to publish and sustain for the benefit of the global scientific community.

Sincerely,

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