



## Description

From early cases of falsified reviewer emails in 2012 to the mass retractions at BioMed Central, Springer, Hindawi, and Wiley, the timeline reveals how fake peer reviews and paper mill activities have escalated, with over 8,000 papers withdrawn in 2023 alone.

The below infographic traces the growing crisis of retractions caused by compromised [peer review](#), highlighting how systemic vulnerabilities have been exploited over the past decade. It shows how the “publish or perish” culture, combined with weak editorial checks and overburdened reviewers, has led to waves of retractions across major publishers. It emphasizes that while peer review remains the “gatekeeper of science,” unchecked pressures and fraud have placed its credibility at risk; raising a critical question for Peer Review Week 2025: Can the system evolve fast enough to protect research integrity? Let us know in the comments!

# The Retraction Crisis: Is Peer Review Failing?

## Retractions at a Glance



60% from private institutions – fake peer review is the top cause!



## Retraction Events Caused by Compromised Peer Review



- Sept 2012: South Korean researcher used fake reviewer emails; 35 papers retracted.
- Mar 2015: BioMed Central pulled 43 papers over falsified peer reviews by third-party agencies.
- Aug 2015: Springer retracted 64 articles due to fabricated peer review reports with suspicious reviewer email addresses.
- Nov 2016: Springer retracted 25 Tumor Biology papers for systematic review manipulation.
- Apr 2017: Springer pulled another 107 Tumor Biology papers for fake peer reviews involving fake reviewer email accounts to approve their own manuscripts.
- Oct 2020: Over 600 articles retracted due to fake reviewing.
- Sep 2022: Wiley's Hindawi journals faced 500 retractions for manipulated reviews.
- Dec 2023: Hindawi retracted 8,000+ papers linked to paper mills and compromised peer review.
- Aug 2024: Biochemical Society retracted 25 papers for peer review manipulation.
- Dec 2024: Finnish Publication Forum downgraded 270+ MDPI & Frontiers journals for compromised editorial practices.
- Mar 2025: Wiley's International Wound Journal retracted 240+ papers over manipulated peer review.

### References:

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2. Trending Now

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## Author

anagha