

Co-Editor-in-Chief

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and Other Interventional Techniques

3 September 2002

Professor Evaghelos Xynos
Associate Professor of Surgery
Department of General Surgery
University Hospital of Crete
71110 HERAKLION
Crete
Greece

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Dear Professor Xynos

RE: Allegations of fraud in relation to article 'Laparoscopic or open approach for Nissen Fundoplication: a comparative study' (M/S: 019101) published online in *Surgical Endoscopy*.

I have now completed all my inquiries on these allegations and obtained all the details from all the surgeons involved in the study, including lists of patients entered into the trial from the three centers. I am happy to report that I have been unable to substantiate the allegations made against you and can therefore dismiss them. I hope you will realize that I had no alternative but to initiate this inquiry. It was not a pleasant or easy exercise to have to do but nonetheless it was in everybody's interest for it to be carried out expeditiously and as objectively as humanly possible. As a result you are exonerated and your scientific integrity has been preserved. For my part, I want to thank you for complying so readily with all my requests for the material. I am afraid, I cannot divulge the identity of your detractor but I have written to the person concerned to indicate quite clearly the outcome of the inquiry.

Yours sincerely

Professor Sir Alfred Cuschieri FRSE
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Cc. AC, BM, GP, Peer Reviewers