

Obesity Action Coalition

20th May 2020

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Dear OAC Members,

On behalf of the Journal of Internal Medicine and Wiley, we would like to extend our apologies to the members of OAC for the Graphical Abstract (GA) published with the article ‘Obesity in African-Americans; Is Physiology to blame?’. The image greatly perpetuates the negative weight bias and stigma associated with the disease of obesity and it should never have been created. We apologize for the distress caused to the community. We removed the GA as soon as we could on Monday May 11th from the accepted article and greatly appreciate the letter received from the Obesity Action Coalition allowing us to respond to this incident. We have included strict additional steps in our workflow to ensure this error of judgement is not repeated. The title of the article will be adjusted by the authors to ” Obesity in African-Americans; The role of physiology” and this change will be reflected online with an audit trail to notify our readers.

The article ‘Obesity in African-Americans; Is Physiology to blame?’ was published as a review based upon a scientific symposium held at University of Umeå, Northern Sweden in 2019 in which Journal of Internal Medicine was the main sponsor. The meeting was organized by professor Tommy Olsson, Umeå and was attended by researchers from over 14 countries with discussions and presentations of the various complexities of obesity and type 2 diabetes including genetics, physiological mechanisms, environmental factors, life-style factors and others also including gene-environmental interactions. We have published an introduction to the symposium papers by Professor Tommy Olsson, where the three papers from the symposium are considered in a broader scientific perspective to better understand the development of obesity and type 2 diabetes among various ethnic groups. The introduction will be linked to the articles to inform our readers. We are truly very much interested in supporting good clinical science that will further advance our knowledge of the mechanisms behind obesity and type 2 diabetes.

Ulf de Faire

Editor-in-Chief

Journal of Internal Medicine

Wiley