



Politics and Medical Journals: The Case of The Lancet and the Palestinians

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In August of last year, The Lancet, one of the world's best-known medical journals, published "An Open Letter for the People of Gaza" in which 24 signatories proclaimed, "On the basis of our ethics and practice, we are denouncing what we witness in the aggression of Gaza by Israel." The letter ignited a firestorm of criticism of the journal and the idea that a medical journal should publish commentaries, substantiated or not, on political questions. Two months later, the Lancet editor, Dr. Richard Horton, visited the Rambam Health Center, toured the campus, learned about its humanitarian mission, and said he "deeply, deeply regrets" publishing the letter. This presentation will give an account of that visit and its consequences, and address related ethical issues.

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