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## Incorrect *P* Values in Two Articles by Ke-Xuan Liu, M.D., Ph.D., *et al.*

To the Editor:

We have read with interest the editorial by Drs. Kharasch and Houle<sup>1</sup> regarding an algorithm developed by Carlisle to detect nonrandom sampling in clinical trials.<sup>2</sup> Two of our previous articles<sup>3,4</sup> published in *ANESTHESIOLOGY* were mentioned in Carlisle's publication, and we were asked by the journal to verify the

correctness of reporting in these articles. Upon review, it is apparent that the *P* values in tables 1 and 2 of our 2014 article<sup>3</sup> and in table 2 of our 2013 article<sup>4</sup> are systematically incorrect, given the descriptive statistics. We are unable to locate the primary data to recalculate the *P* values in these tables. We have located the primary data for table 3 of the 2014 article and verified that the descriptive data presented in the article are correct. We believe that the reported descriptive statistics, including tables 1 and 2 in both articles, are correct, and that the reported *P* values are incorrect as the result of a systematic error. We believe this has been a systematic copy-and-paste error when data were transferred from one set of analysis to the tables. We have recalculated the *P* values using the descriptive statistics with simplified *t* tests, and we have found that all new *P* values are systematically smaller than the reported erroneous *P* values. Thus, we believe the conclusions of our studies are not affected by the error.

### Competing Interests

The authors declare no competing interests.

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