# Research Integrity: Why Is This Such a Problem?

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Other roles where I am constantly aware of the importance of research integrity

- SWOG (Vice Chair, Translational Medicine)
- JAMA Oncology (Deputy Editor)
- 4 Clinical Trial Data Monitoring Committees

GCC Workshop: May, 2022

# Research Integrity And Its Effects On Drug Development

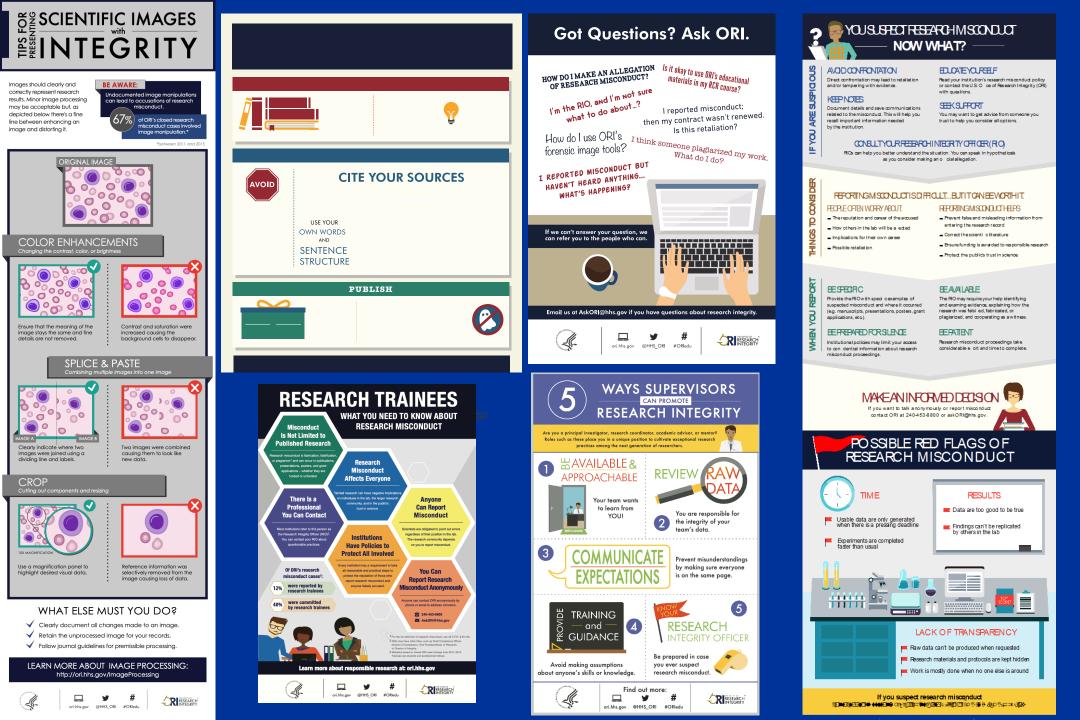
- Integrity of laboratory research and how this impacts clinical outcomes
  - The issue at hand
    - The spectrum
  - Why does this occur?
  - What can we do to fix this?

# Don't Be Surprised if You Feel One or More of the Following Emotions After This Lecture

- Shocked
- Angry
- Embarrassed (Guilty?)
- Entertained
- Discouraged
- Reinvigorated
  - You don't have to publish in CNS to have a successful career and more importantly, to make significant contributions!
- All of the above

## Everything You Need to Know About Research Integrity From One Site

https://ori.hhs.gov/infographics



# Sources of Information on Lapses in Research Integrity

- Retractionwatch.com
- PubPeer
- Leaders in the field
  - Elizabeth Bik (twitter)
  - Arturo Casadevall
- Office of Research Integrity



#### Welcome to another edition of The RW Daily.

Know someone who would enjoy The RW Daily? They can subscribe here.







Margaret Salinas
"Are Your
Participants Real?
Dealing with Fraud
in Recruiting Older
Adults Online."

**Read more** 

Ilinca I. Ciubotariu "Improving research integrity: a framework for <u>responsible science</u> <u>communication</u>."

**Read more** 

"A Black Doctor Tried To Diversify Medicine. <u>Then She</u> <u>Lost Her Job</u>." (Buzzfeed News)

Read more

#### Worthwhile Reads Elsewhere

• An obituary is retracted.

#### ICYMI

 Weekend reads: Dogs removed from controversial research facility; 'an unacceptable idea'; 'blind spots on western blots'

### retractionwatch.com COVID Retractions as of May 16, 2022

#### Retracted

1. "5G Technology and induction of coronavirus in skin cells," published in Biological Regulators & Homeostatic Agents on July 16, 2020, withdrawn on July 24, 2020. Our coverage here.

"A review of convalescent plasma transfusion in COVID-19: Old wine reserved for special occasions," published in Lung India on September 16, 2020; retracted December 31, 2020.

3. Acute necrotizing myelitis and acute motor axonal neuropathy in a COVID-19 patient," published in Journal of Neurology on August 9, 2020; unknown date of retraction.

- 4. "An epidemiological investigation of a new coronavirus pneumonia cluster epidemic spread in public transportation" (also titled "An epidemiological investigation of 2019 novel coronavirus diseases through aerosol-borne transmission by public transport"), published in early March in Practical Preventive Medicine and retracted sometime in mid-April. More context here.
- "Anal swab as the potentially optimal specimen for SARS-CoV-2 detection to evaluate the hospital discharge of COVID-19 patients," published on August 14, 2020 in Future Microbiology; retracted on April 13 2021.
- 6. "Analysis of Ten Microsecond simulation data of SARS-CoV-2 dimeric main protease," preprint posted on bioRxiv, April 12, 2020, withdrawn April 16, 2020. . "Analysis of thin-section CT in patients with coronavirus disease (COVID-19) after hospital discharge," published on May 15, 2020 in Clinical Imaging; retraction date/reason is unknown.
- . "Autopsy and Histologic Findings of Patients with New Coronavirus Pneumonia: The Pathologic Associations with Hypoxemia," published on February 13, 2020 in Medical Science Monitor; retracted on March 17, 2021.

9. "Calcifediol Treatment and COVID-19-Related Outcomes," posted to Preprints with The Lancet on January 22 and removed on February 19. Our coverage here. 0. "Can quantitative RT-PCR for SARS-coV-2 help in better management of patients and control of coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic," published on November 16, 2020 in Indian Journal of Medical Microbiology; unknown date of retraction. 1. "Can Traditional Chinese Medicine provide insights into controlling the COVID-19 pandemic: Serpentinization-induced lithospheric long-wavelength magnetic anomalies in Proterozoic bedrocks in a weakened geomagnetic field mediate the aberrant transformation of biogenic molecules in COVID-19 via magnetic catalysis," published in Science of the Total Environment on October 8, 2020, "temporary removal" on November 5, 2020, subsequently retracted on an unknown date. Our

65. "Mechanical ventilation in COVID-19: Is it due to patient or virology factors," published on June 14, 2020 in the Annals of Medicine and Surgery; date of retraction is unknown

56. "Mental health burden for the public affected by the COVID-19 outbreak in China: Who will be the high-risk group?," published April 14, 2020 in Psychology, Health & Medicine and retracted on October 23, 2020. Our coverage here.

57. "Mental health status and coping strategy of medical workers in China during The COVID-19 outbreak," preprint posted on medRxiv on February 25, 2020, withdrawn on March 7, 2020

68. "Mortality of a pregnant patient diagnosed with COVID-19: A case report with clinical, radiological, and histopathological findings," published in Travel Medicine and Infectious Disease on April 11, 2020, retracted on May 2, 2020. Our coverage here

59. "mRNA Vaccines to Prevent COVID-19 Disease and Reported Allergic Reactions: Current Evidence and Approach," published December 31, 2020 in The Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology: In Practice. Temporary Removal published on unknown date

0. "Needed: Less influenza vaccine hesitancy and less presenteeism among health care workers in the COVID-19 era," published on October 1, 2020 in Early Human

Development: retracted sometime in March, 2021, See our coverage here. 1. "No Deleterious Effect of Lockdown Due to COVID-19 Pandemic on Glycaemic Control, Measured by Glucose Monitoring, in Adults with Type 1 Diabetes," published on May 12, 2020 in Diabetes Technology & Therapeutics, retracted July 27, 2020. Our coverage here.

72. "Noninvasive versus invasive ventilation: one modality cannot fit all during COVID-19 outbreak," published on July 8, 2020 in the Korean Journal of Anesthesiology, retracted on September 14, 2020. Our coverage here. 3. "Noteworthy Neurological Manifestations Associated With COVID-19 Infection," published on July 3, 2020 in Cureus, retracted on March 5, 2021.

"Novel research opportunities: an unfortunate small silver lining to COVID-19." published on October 2, 2020 in Early Human Development; retracted on sometim in March. 2021. See our coverage here.

5. "Novel research opportunities 2: An unfortunate small silver lining to COVID-19," published on November 12, 2020 in Early Human Development; retracted sometime in March, 2021. See our coverage here.

76. "Nurses reports of actual work hours and preferred work hours per shift among frontline nurses during coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) epidemic: A crosssectional survey," published on May 16, 2020 in the International Journal of Nursing Studies; date of retraction is unknown.

- Estimation for Deep Learning Safety," reportedly to be presented at the ICML 2020 Workshop on Uncertainty and Robustness in Deep Learning in July, 2020, removed sometime before June 17, 2020. Improbable Research discusses it here.
- . "Cardiovascular Disease, Drug Therapy, and Mortality in Covid-19," published in the New England Journal of Medicine on May 1, 2020, subjected to an expression of concern on June 2, 2020 and retracted on June 4.
- "Characteristics and risk factors for COVID-19 diagnosis and adverse outcomes in Mexico: an analysis of 89,756 laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases," published in the European Respiratory Journal on July 31, 2020, and retracted on March 4, 2021.
- . "Chinese medical staff request international medical assistance in fighting against COVID-19," letter in The Lancet published February 24, 2020 and retracted
- February 26, 2020, More context here 6. "Chinese mental health burden during the COVID-19 pandemic," published
- in Asian Journal of Psychiatry on April 14, 2020 and retracted on November 4, 2020. Our coverage here "Clinical and Epidemiological Characteristics of 34 Children With 2019 Novel
- Coronavirus Infection in Shenzhen," published in Zhonghua Er Ke Za Zhi on February 17, 2020, date of retraction unknown
- "Clinical manifestations and outcome of SARS-CoV-2 infection during pregnancy," published on March 5, 2020 in Journal of Infection; unknown date of retracti Hat tip.
- "Chloroquine or hydroxychloroquine for COVID-19: why might they be hazardous?" published in The Lancet on May 22, 2020, retracted and replaced July 9,
- 2020. Our coverage here. "Clinical sequelae of the novel coronavirus: does COVID-19 infection predispose patients to cancer?", published in Future Oncology in May 2020, retracted for plagiarism in December 2020. Our coverage here.
- "Computational analysis suggests putative intermediate animal hosts of the SARS-CoV-2," preprint posted on bioRxiv on April 5, 2020, withdrawn April 20, 2020.
- "Convalescent plasma therapy in COVID 19: Every dark cloud has a silver lining," published on October 16, 2020 in Journal of Anaesthesiology Clinical Pharmacology; retracted January 18, 2021. . "Corona Virus Killed by Sound Vibrations Produced by Thali or Ghanti: A Potential
- Hypothesis," published in March-August 2020 issue of Journal of Molecula Pharmaceuticals and Regulatory Affairs: date of retraction unknown "Coronavirus disease-2019: A brief compilation of facts," published on May 8, 2020
- in the Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology; retracted in the May-August 2020 issue
- . "Obesity and mortality of COVID-19. Meta-analysis," published on July 9, 2020 in Obesity Research & Clinical Practice, retracted February 6, 2021 8. "One of COVID-19's many costs: Malta's expenditure in consumables and nonconsumables, a population-based study," published on October 1, 2021 in Early Human Development; retracted sometime in March, 2021. See our coverage here "Patterns of COVID-19 Mortality and Vitamin D: An Indonesian Study," preprint posted on April 30, 2020 in SSRN: Social Science Resource Network. Retraction date
- unknown. (Hat tip to HealthNerd) ). "Phytotherapeutic options for the treatment of COVID-19: A concise viewpoint." published on August 20, 2020 in Phytotherapy Research: retracted on December
- 30, 2020 "Potential False-Positive Rate Among the 'Asymptomatic Infected Individuals' in
- Journal of Epidemiology and retracted a few days later. More context here. "Proposal for Initiative of Evidence-based Treatment of COVID-19 Patients with Worsening Hypoxia," published on October 7, 2020 in the American Journal of
- "Psychosis: A Presentation of COVID-19," published on June 12, 2020 in
- Psychosomatics; date of retraction is unknown. "Psychiatric Predictors of COVID-19 Outcomes in a Skilled Nursing Facility Cohort"
- medRxiv preprint posted May 26, 2020, and withdrawn June 21, 2020. 5. "Racial Disparity Amongst Stroke Patients During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 Pandemic," published on September 10, 2020 in Cureus; retracted on January 13, 2021
- 5. "Review of the Emerging Evidence Demonstrating the Efficacy of Ivermectin in the Prophylaxis & Treatment of COVID-19," published as an abstract at Frontiers in Pharmacology in January 2021, removed without a notice by March 1, 2021. Coverage by The Scientist here.
- "Safe school reopening under COVID-19 restrictions Measures implemented in San Andrea independent school in Malta," published on October 1, 2020 in Early Human Development; retracted sometime in March, 2021. See our coverage here. "SARS-CoV-2 infects T lymphocytes through its spike protein-mediated membrane fusion," published in Cellular & Molecular Immunology April 7, 2020, subject to an expression of concern in early June 2020, retracted July 10, 2020. Our cover-
- age here. . "SARS-CoV-2 was Unexpectedly Deadlier than Push-scooters: Could
- Hydroxychloroguine be the Unique Solution?" published on August 15, 2020 in Asian Journal of Medicine and Health, retracted August 16, 2020. Our cover age here.
- . "Seeding of outbreaks of COVID-19 by contaminated fresh and frozen food," pre-

- 25. "Countering fake news in the COVID-19 era: The public's opinion on the role of a honest and reliable website," published on November 17, 2020 in Early Human Development; retracted sometime in March, 2021. See our coverage here. 6. "COVID-19: A global and continental overview of the second wave and its (relatively) attenuated case fatality ratio," published on October 3, 2020 in Early Human Development; retracted sometime in March, 2021. See our coverage here. 7. "COVID-19: Combined supply-side and demand-side shocks, so lift restrictions (carefully) lest GPD declines ultimately kill more than COVID-19," published or October 1, 2020 in Early Human Development; retracted sometime in March, 2021
- See our coverage here.
- 3. "COVID-19: Mathematical estimation of delay to deaths in relation to upsurges in positive rates," published on October 1, 2020 in Early Human Development; retracted sometime in March, 2021. See our coverage here.
- 9. "COVID-19: The possible seasonal shape of things to come," published on November 12, 2020 in Early Human Development; retracted sometime in March, 2021. See our coverage here.
- "COVID-19, Suicide, and Femicide: rapid research using Google Search," published on January 22, 2021 in The Journal of General Psychology; retracted on May 19,
- 2021. See our coverage here. . "COVID-19 and potential global mortality – Revisited," published on April 30, 2020 in Early Human Development; retracted sometime in March, 2021. See our cover
- age here.
  - 2. "COVID-19 Emergency Responders in FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research," published sometime after April 6, 2020 in Journal of the American Pharmacists Association, date of retraction unknown.
  - 8. "COVID-19 in Africa and collateral effects on health systems and their immuniza tion programs," published on October 9, 2020 in Vaccine; retraction date is un
  - 4. "COVID-19 is ageist, sexist, ruthless, dispassionate and opportunistic Protecting our vulnerable," published on October 1, 2020 in Early Human Development; retracted sometime in March, 2021. See our coverage here
  - . "COVID-19, its novel vaccination and fake news What a brew," published on November 12, 2020 in Early Human Development: retracted sometime in March. 2021. See our coverage here.
  - 5. "COVID-19 related acute decline in paediatric admissions in Malta, a populationbased study," published on November 12, 2020 in Early Human Development; retracted sometime in March, 2021. See our coverage here.
  - "Decrease in Hospitalizations for COVID-19 after Mask Mandates in 1083 U.S. Counties," medRxiv preprint posted on October 23, 2020 and withdrawn on November 4, 2020

date of retraction is unknown

March. 2021, See our coverage here

March, 2021. See our coverage here.

time in March, 2021. See our coverage here.

date is unknown.

April 15, 2020

"Selenium-associated gene signatures within the SARS-CoV-2-host genomic inter-

action interface," published on July 15, 2020 in Free Radical Biology & Medicine,

2. "Sharp decline in acute and elective hospital attendances and admissions due to

6. "Subsegmental Thrombus in COVID-19 Pneumonia: Immuno-Thrombosis or

Pulmonary Embolism? Data Analysis of Hospitalized Patients with Coronavirus

Disease," published on August 24, 2020 in Heart, Lung and Circulation; retraction

7. "The early cryptic transmission and evolution of SARS-CoV-2 in human hosts," pre-

print posted on November 17, 2020 in SSRN: Social Science Resource Network,

98. "The Role of Vitamin D in Suppressing Cytokine Storm in COVID-19 Patients and

9. "Theoretical novel COVID-19 vaccination risk of rare and severe adverse events

00. "The way in which COVID-19 changed behaviour on social media in Malta," pub-

1. "The Spanish Flu, COVID-19 and Malta's reactions: Contrasts and similarities,"

published on November 12, 2020 in Early Human Development; retracted some-

2. "To wear or not to wear? Adherence to face mask use during the COVID-19 and

Development; retracted sometime in March, 2021. See our coverage here.

Antibiotics for Moderate COVID 19: A First Report on the Pharmacological

3. "Treatment Response to Hydroxychloroquine, Lopinavir/Ritonavir, and

Spanish influenza pandemics," published on November 12, 2020 in Early Human

Outcomes from South Korea" preprint posted May 18, 2020 in medRxiv, and with-

lished on November 12, 2020 in Early Human Development: retracted sometime in

versus COVID-19 mortality," published on October 1, 2020 in Early Human

Development: retracted sometime in March, 2021, See our coverage here.

Associated Mortality," preprint posted on April 10, 2020 in medRxiv; withdrawn on

withdrawn at an unknown date. Coverage in the media here.

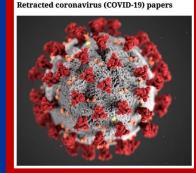
COVID-19 in Malta (Q1 2020) - A population-based study," published on November

12, 2020 in Early Human Development; retracted sometime in March, 2021. See our

- 8. "Deep learning system to screen coronavirus disease 2019 pneumonia," published on April 22, 2020 in Applied Intelligence; date of retraction is unknown. "Dyslipidemia Increases the Risk of Severe COVID-19: A Systematic Review, Meta-
- analysis, and Meta-regression," published on February 8, 2021 in Journal of Clinical and Experimental Hepatology: retracted on unknown date.
- "Effectiveness of Surgical and Cotton Masks in Blocking SARS-CoV-2: A Controlled Comparison in 4 Patients," published on April 6, 2020 in the Annals of Interna Medicine, retracted on June 1, 2020.
- I. "Effectiveness of ZYESAMI" (Aviptadil) in accelerating recovery and shortening hospitalization in critically-ill patients with COVID-19 Respiratory Failure: interim report from a phase 2b/3 multicenter trial," published on February 27, 2021 in SSRN, removed without notice on an unknown date
- "Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Stroke Patients," published on August 24, 2020 in Cureus; retracted on January 13, 2021.
- 3. "Emergency Preparedness and COVID-19: A Review of AWWA Policy Statements and Guidance," published on August 4, 2020 in Opflow. Retracted on December 4
- "Epidemiological and clinical features of the 2019 novel coronavirus outbreak in China," medRxiv preprint posted on February 11, 2020 and withdrawn February 21, 2020. More context here
- "Experience on radiological examinations and infection prevention for COVID-19 in radiology department," published on March 31, 2020 in Radiology of Infectious Diseases: date of retraction is unknown
- 5. "Facemasks in the COVID-19 era: A health hypothesis," published on November 22, 2020 in Medical Hypotheses; retracted on or about May 3, 2021, Our coverage here
- "First viral replication of Covid-19 identified in the peritoneal dialysis fluid," published in Bulletin de la Dialyse à Domicile on April 13, 2020, retracted on April 20, 2020. Our coverage here
- 8. "Forensic case-work analysis and legal challenges during pandemic: An update from Pakistan," published in Legal Medicine in October 2020, retracted at an un clear date
- From SARS-CoV to Wuhan 2019-nCoV Outbreak: Similarity of Early Epidemic and Prediction of Future Trends," preprint posted on bioRxiv on January 25, 2020, withdrawn on January 28, 2020
- "Holidays over: A review of actual COVID-19 school outbreaks up to September 2020." published on October 1, 2020 in Early Human Development; retracted some time in March, 2021. See our coverage here.
- "Homeopathy combat against coronavirus disease (Covid-19)," published on June 5 2020 in the Journal of Public Health and retracted on August 3, 2020. See our
- 104. "Uncanny similarity of unique inserts in the 2019-nCoV spike protein to HIV-1 gp120 and Gag," preprint posted January 31, 2020 in bioRxiv and withdrawn February 2, 2020. More context here.
- 05. "Usefulness of Ivermectin in COVID-19 Illness," preprint posted on April 19, 2020 on SSRN: Social Science Resource Network, retracted sometime thereafter 06. "Vaccine hesitancy among Maltese Healthcare workers toward influenza and
- novel COVID-19 vaccination." published on October 1, 2020 in Early Human Development; retracted on sometime in March, 2021. See our coverage here.
- 07. "Vaccine hesitancy in Maltese family physicians and their trainees vis-à-vis influenza and novel COVID-19 vaccination," published on November 12, 2020 in Early Human Development; retracted sometime in March, 2021. See our coverage here
- 08. "Vaccine hesitancy in the University of Malta Faculties of Health Sciences, Dentistry and Medicine vis-à-vis influenza and novel COVID-19 vaccination," published on November 12, 2020 in Early Human Development; retracted sometime in March, 2021. See our coverage here.
- 09. "Vitamin D Level of Mild and Severe Elderly Cases of COVID-19: A Preliminary Report," preprint posted on May 5, 2020 in SSRN: Social Science Resource Network inknown date of retraction
- 10. "Vitamin D supplementation could possibly improve clinical outcomes of patients infected with Coronavirus-2019 (COVID2019)," preprint posted on April 9, 2020 in SSRN: Social Science Resource Network; unknown date of retraction.

#### Hospital factors associated with SARS-CoV-2 infection among healthcare personnel in Greece," published in The Journal of Hospital Infection on October 22, 2020 Temporary Removal" date not provided. Still showing temporary removal as of December 29, 2020

- 53. "Hydroxychloroquine or chloroquine with or without a macrolide for treatment of COVID-19: a multinational registry analysis," published in The Lancet on May 22, 2020, subjected to an expression of concern on June 2 ,and retracted on June 4.
- "Hydroxychloroquine plus azithromycin: a potential interest in reducing inhospital morbidity due to COVID-19 pneumonia (HI-ZY-COVID)?" preprint posted on medRxiv, May 11, 2020, withdrawn on May 20, 2020. Our coverage here. 5. "Incidence and mortality of COVID-19 in Iranian multiple sclerosis patients
- treated with disease-modifying therapies," published September 15, 2020 in Revue Neurologique and retracted on October 8, 2020.
- . "Impact of lockdown and health anxiety during COVID 19 pandemic among inpatients of a psychiatric hospital: an observational study," published on November 10, 2020 in the Asian Journal of Psychiatry: unknown date of retraction.
- "Intersectionality and Inequalities in Medical Risk for Severe COVID-19 in the Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging," published September 24, 2020 in The Gerontologist, retracted January 22, 2021.
- . "Intracranial Hemorrhage in COVID-19 Patients on ECMO: Challenges and Future Directions," published on June 6, 2020 in the Journal of Cardiothoracic and Vascular Anesthesia: retraction date is unknown
- "Ivermectin in COVID-19 Related Critical Illness," preprint posted in April 2020 on SSRN: Social Science Resource Network, retracted sometime in May. Reporting from The Scientist here.
- 0. "Liver impairment associated with disease progression in COVID-19 patients," published April 15, 2020 in Liver International and retracted in August/September 2020
- 51. "Lung disease severity, Coronary Artery Calcium, Coronary inflammation and Mortality in Coronavirus Disease 2019." medRxiv preprint posted May 6, 2020 and withdrawn June 20, 2020.
- 2. "Lung ultrasound score in establishing the timing of intubation in COVID-19 interstitial pneumonia: A preliminary retrospective observational study," published in PLOS ONE on September 3, 2020; Expression of concern published in PLOS ONE on November 30, 2020; retracted December 31, 2020, Our coverage here.
- 33. "Malta tourism losses due to second wave of COVID-19." published on October 1. 2020 in Early Human Development: retracted sometime in March, 2021.
- 4. "Managing college operations during the coronavirus outbreak," published April 10, 2020 in Journal of the American Pharmacists Association, date of retraction un-



### Total of 226, up from 126 in May, 2021!!

- coverage here. 3. "Smoking Prevalence is Low in Symptomatic Patients Admitted for COVID-19." medRxiv preprint posted May 10, 2020 and withdrawn June 13, 2020. 4. "Some health effects of global warming," published on October 1, 2020 in Early Human Development; retracted sometime in March, 2021. See our coverage here. 95. "Sports and sportsmen as role models - or otherwise - in the COVID-19 era," published on November 12, 2020 in Early Human Development; retracted sometime in
- Close Contacts of COVID-19 Patients," published March 5, 2020 in the Chinese
- Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine; date of retraction unknown

### PubPeer

The **PubPeer** Foundation is a California-registered public-benefit corporation with nonprofit status in the US. The overarching goal --- is to improve the quality of scientific research by enabling innovative approaches for community interaction---pubpeer.com is a service run for the benefit of its readers and commenters, who create its content. Our current focus is maintaining and developing the **PubPeer** online platform for post-publication peer review.

#### Gamma-tocotrienol promotes TRAIL-induced apoptosis through reactive oxygen species/extracellular signal-regulated kinase/p53-mediated upregulation of death receptors

Molecular Cancer Therapeutics (2010) - 12 Comments pubmed: 20682650 doi: 10.1158/1535-7163.mct-10-0277 issn: 1538-8514 issn: 1535-7163

Ramaswamy Kannappan, Jayaraj Ravindran, Sahdeo Prasad, Bokyung Sung, Vivek R. Yadav, Simone Reuter, Madan M. Chaturvedi, Bharat B. Aggarwal

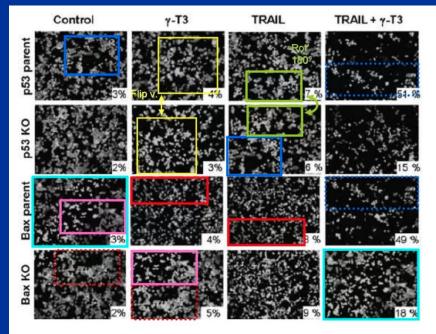
**#1 Paul S Brookes** commented 6 years ago

Seeing this beautiful example of "creative image management" highlighted on Twitter (actually had over 100 retweets at last count)....

https://pubpeer.com/publications/B0EE98F42E52EE4F8B130E20059699

(https://pubpeer.com/publications/B0EE98F42E52EE4F8B130E20059699)

... reminded me of this one that's been sitting in the archives for a few years. It's really one of my favorite examples of the art. Should be in all the textbooks.



(https://pubpeer.com/storage/imgur-TVDV9Qp.jpg)

Not everything on PubPeer is fraud. Mistakes can be made, and corrected. Read the comments and decide for yourself.

### Not Everyone on PubPeer is Evil

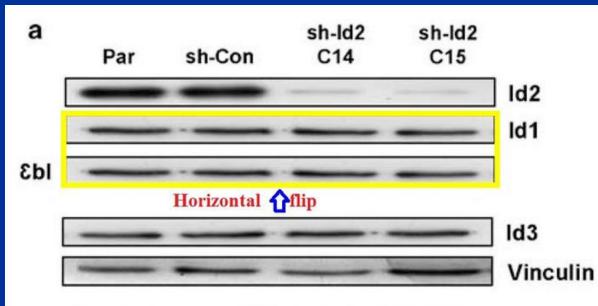


Figure 2a Oncogene. 2008 Dec 4;27(57):7192-200.

### Gray.....Ellis

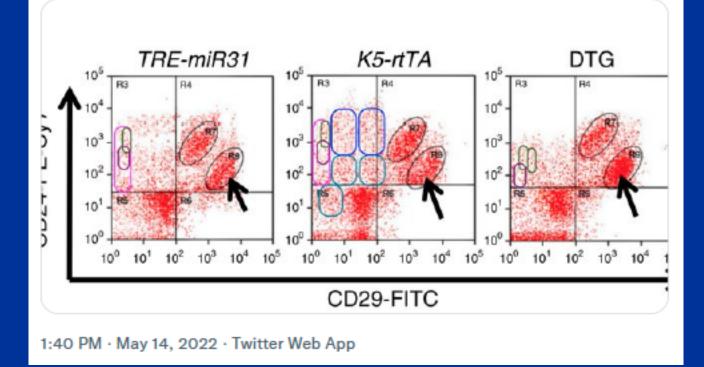
"Following the publication of this Article, it was brought to the attention of the Authors that a control for shRNA knock-down of Id2 in Fig. 2 was a duplicated and reversed set of bands from another control in the Figure. The row of bands on the western blot for Id3 is the same blot for Id1 knock-down, but "flipped" horizontally. This does not change the conclusions of the manuscript. The authors have submitted a revised Fig. 2, omitting this band, as they no longer have access to the reagents and cannot repeat this part of the experiment."



Elisabeth Bik 📀 @MicrobiomDigest

Oh dear. @NatureComms making #BadEditorialDecision here by issuing a correction. "The original version of this Article contained an error in Fig. 4. In the original Fig. 4a, different quadrants [...] contained similar unexplained groups of data points."

pubpeer.com/publications/3...



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#### Do individual and institutional predictors of misconduct vary by country? Results of a matched-control analysis of problematic image duplications

Daniele Fanelli<sup>1\*</sup>, Matteo Schleicher<sup>1</sup>, Ferric C. Fang<sup>2</sup>, Arturo Casadevall<sup>3</sup>, Elisabeth M. Bik<sup>4</sup>

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### PLOS 2022

#### Abstract

Pressures to publish, perverse incentives, financial interest and gender are amongst the most commonly discussed risk factors for scientific misconduct. However, evidence of their association with actual data fabrication and falsification is inconclusive. A recent case-controlled analysis of articles containing problematic image duplications suggested that country of affiliation of first and last authors is a significant predictor of scientific misconduct. The same analysis found null or negative associations with individual proxies of publication rate, impact and gender. The latter findings, in line with previous evidence, failed to support common hypotheses about the prevalence and causes of misconduct, but country-level effects may have confounded these results. Here we extend and complete previous results by comparing, via matched-controls analysis, articles from authors in the same country. We found that evidence for individual-level risk factors may be significant in some countries, and null or opposite in others. In particular, in countries where publications are rewarded with cash incentives, and especially China, the risk of problematic image duplication was higher for more productive, more frequently cited, earlier-career researchers working in lower-ranking institutions, in accordance with a "misaligned incentives" explanation for scientific misconduct. However, a null or opposite pattern was observed in all other countries, and especially the USA, UK and Canada, countries where concems for misaligned incentives are commonly expressed. In line with previous results, we failed to observe a statistically significant association with industry funding and with gender. This is the first direct evidence of a link between publication performance and risk of misconduct and between university ranking and risk of misconduct. Commonly hypothesised individual risk factors for scientific misconduct, including career status and productivity, might be relevant in countries where cashreward policies generate perverse incentives. In most scientifically active countries, however, where other incentives systems are in place, these patterns are not observed, and

Scientific misconduct is more common in countries that reward authors with cash incentives.

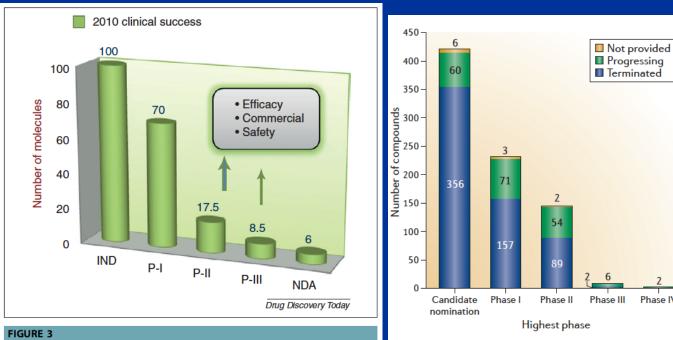
> Peer Review History: PLOS recognizes the benefits of transparency in the peer review process; therefore, we enable the publication of all of the content of peer review and author responses alongside final, published articles. The editorial history of this article is available here: https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0255334

In Summary, Your Best, Most Concise, and Timely Resources on Data Integrity and Interesting Stories are.... Retraction Watch and PubPeer

- Retraction Watch
  - Editors comment on retracted papers
- PubPeer
  - Peers comment on papers (sometimes names disclosed, sometime not)
    - Up to you to determine validity of "concerns"

Note: The US Office of Research Integrity has very limited and focused information limited to those found guilty of misconduct

# **Drug Development Failure Rates are** Too High! (duh)



Total 422 231 2 145 8

Phase IV

observed during 2009 and 2010. Khanna, Drug Disc Today, 2012

Productivity trend during 2009 and 2010. The clinical rate of success is

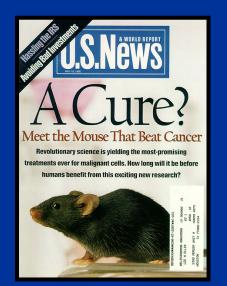
depicted as percentage surviving at each clinical phase based on attrition

Waring, Nat Rev Drug Disc, 2015

-On average, it costs over a billion dollars to take a drug through Phase III, and the time to do this is 13-15 yrs. -To improve upon this dismal ~5% success rate, we must have more confidence in data from very early in the drug development process\*

\* A more recent publication listed this at ~3.5% for cancer

# Why Haven't We Made Greater Strides in Treating Patients With Metastatic Disease?





 Perhaps the data leading to clinical trials are not as sound as they should be

– What is the cause of this?



Bob Radinsky, PhD MDACC (1989-2000) → Amgen (2000)

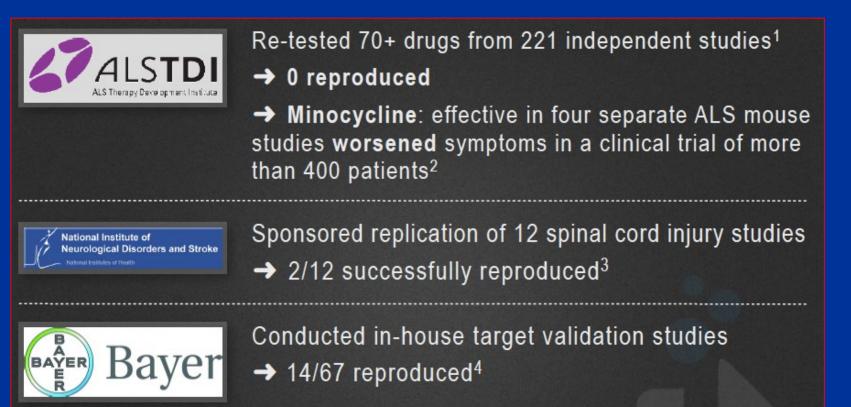
"Lee, do you realize that most of what's published in academia cannot be reproduced?" "Glenn Begley has been prospectively collecting this data from studies done at Amgen"

Glenn's results: Only 6 of 53 (11%) studies could be reproduced



Raise standards for preclinical cancer research. C. Glenn Begley and Lev M. Ellis propose how methods, publications and incentives must change (Fragienesa tro benefit.

### Reports on Issues With Data Reproducibility





Attempted to reproduce 53 "landmark" oncology publications → 6/53 reproduced<sup>5</sup>

1. Scott et al. Amyotroph Lateral Scier. 9, 4-15 (2008).

2. Gordon et al. Lancet Neurol. 6, 1045-1053 (2007).

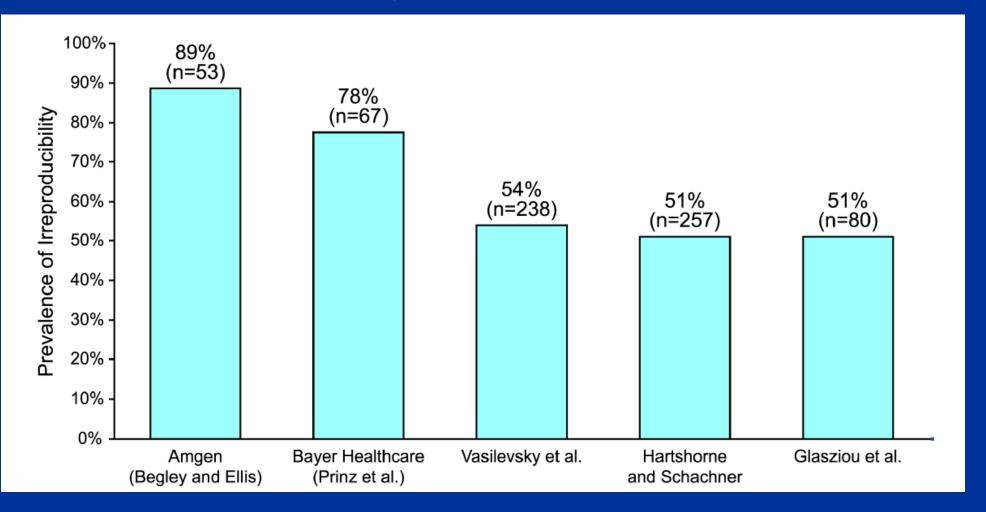
3. Stuart et al. Experimental Neurology 233, 597-605 (2012).

4. Prinz et al. Nat Rev Drug Discov. 10, 712 (2011). 5. Begley and Ellis. Nature. 483, 531-3 (2012).



Raise standards for preclinical cancer research <sup>C. Gene Reger</sup> and Let M. Ellis propose how methods, publications and incentives must change tradens are benefit.

### The Prevalence of the Lack of Reproducibility in *Recently* Published Studies



### Is Amgen's Data on Data Reproducibility, Reproducible?

REPRODUCIBILITY IN CANCER BIOLOGY

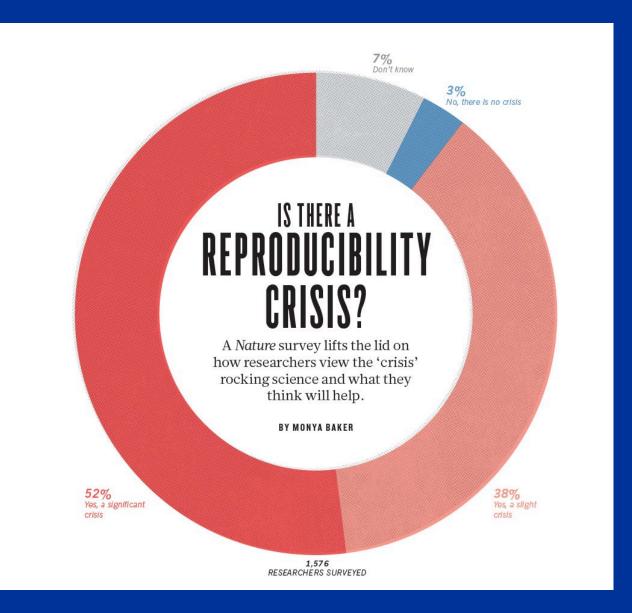
Challenges for assessing replicability in preclinical cancer biology

Errington et al. eLife 2021;

Abstract We conducted the Reproducibility Project: Cancer Biology to investigate the replicability of preclinical research in cancer biology. The initial aim of the project was to repeat 193 experiments from 53 high-impact papers, using an approach in which the experimental protocols and plans for data analysis had to be peer reviewed and accepted for publication before experimental work could begin. However, the various barriers and challenges we encountered while designing and conducting the experiments meant that we were only able to repeat 50 experiments from 23 papers. Here we report these barriers and challenges. First, many original papers failed to report key descriptive and inferential statistics: the data needed to compute effect sizes and conduct power analyses was publicly accessible for just 4 of 193 experiments. Moreover, despite contacting the authors of the original papers, we were unable to obtain these data for 68% of the experiments. Second, none of the 193 experiments were described in sufficient detail in the original paper to enable us to design protocols to repeat the experiments, so we had to seek clarifications from the original authors. While authors were extremely or very helpful for 41% of experiments, they were minimally helpful for 9% of experiments, and not at all helpful (or did not respond to us) for 32% of experiments. Third, once experimental work started, 67% of the peer-reviewed protocols required modifications to complete the research and just 41% of those modifications could be implemented. Cumulatively, these three factors limited the number of experiments that could be repeated. This experience draws attention to a basic and fundamental concern about replication – it is hard to assess whether reported findings are credible.

## TIMOTHY M ERRINGTON\*, ALEXANDRIA DENIS<sup>+</sup>, NICOLE PERFITO<sup>‡</sup>,ELIZABETH IORNS AND BRIAN A NOSEK50/193 = 26% reproducibility rate

## Nature Survey, May 2016



# The Spectrum of Reporting Preclinical and Clinical Data

Not all non-reproducible events are due to evil people

Honest Sloppy Selective Reporting Falsification Fabrication

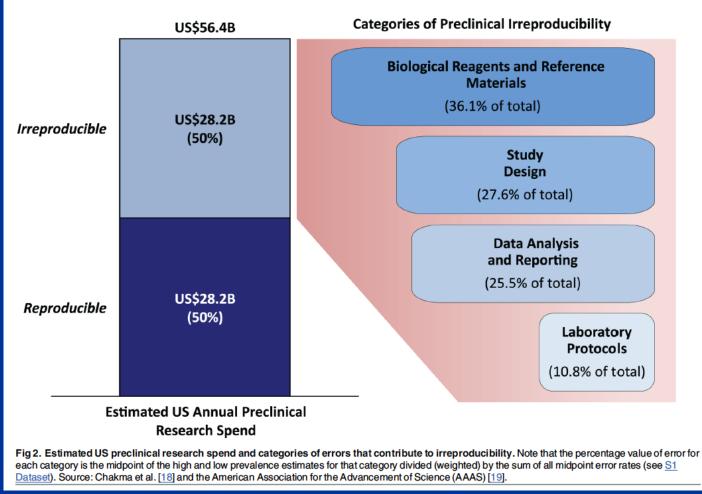
### What are the consequences?

- Clinical trials that are bound to fail
- Wasted time and effort of investigators and trainees
- A waste of money to try build on studies that are not sound
- Loss of confidence from our community

# The Economics of Reproducibility in Preclinical Research

#### Leonard P. Freedman<sup>1</sup>\*, Iain M. Cockburn<sup>2</sup>, Timothy S. Simcoe<sup>2,3</sup>

1 Global Biological Standards Institute, Washington, D.C., United States of America, 2 Boston University School of Management, Boston, Massachusetts, United States of America, 3 Council of Economic Advisers, Washington, D.C., United States of America



#### Freedman et al. PLoS Biol, 2015

# The Spectrum of Reporting Preclinical and Clinical Data



- Inappropriate Stats
- Cell line contamination/drift
- Journals don't like negative data
   Therefore, PIs don't like negative data

## Selective Reporting of Laboratory Studies

- Journals prioritize "positive" results
  - If a drug works in 2 cell lines, and does not in 8, we only see the results on the 2 cell lines
- Students, post-docs, <u>and</u> faculty need publications for advancement
  - "Publish or perish"
  - In many labs, 2 trainees work on the same project competing with each other...guess who wins?
- Therefore, we tend to report only the "positive" data and ignore the negative data

#### CAREER COLUMN · 04 OCTOBER 2019

### Highlight negative results to improve science

Publishers, reviewers and other members of the scientific community must fight science's preference for positive results — for the benefit of all, says Devang Mehta.

The pressure to publish a positive story can also lead scientists to spin their results in a better light, and, in extreme instances, to commit fraud and manipulate data. In fields such as biotechnology and genomics, social scientists have already pointed out that hyping up the science could foster unrealistic expectations in an already sceptical public, counter-intuitively leading to greater distrust when real-world advances come at a slower pace.

We need reviewers and publishers to commit to publishing negative results in their journals. We need academic conferences to embrace honest discussions of failed experiments. We need funding agencies to support scientists who produce/report *negative results*. And, as scientists, we must acknowledge that all reliable studies should be reported (and accessible), irrespective of its outcome.

## The Spectrum of Reporting Preclinical and Clinical Data The more difficult issue to address



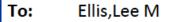
Sloppy

Selective Reporting

Falsification Fabrication

Let's Talk About "Misconduct"

## Do Investigators Intentionally Falsify or Fabricate Data?



Dear Sir,

I read your article titled "Raise standards for preclinical cancer research" published in Nature. I felt so happy to learn that the scientific community has been realizing a fact that people in cancer research field have been publishing fraud/non-reproducible data.

I lost my father, 2 of my uncles, aunt and two sister-in-laws because of cancer. Above bitter experiences made me to dedicate my life in finding solution to cancer. With a well-defined career goal of finding treatment to cancer, I entered into cancer research. After completion of Ph.D. from a Nobel Laureate group in Germany, I went to US to work on cancer. As a postdoc in the US, I had to change 7 research labs in 7 years due to the following reason:

PI's wanted me to produce falsified data and I refused to do so. Many PIs fired me as soon as they realized that I don't do wrong things. To cover them up, they sabotaged my professional life as well personal character.

Situation in cancer research field is so bad that nearly 90% of scientists in cancer research field, especially in the US, have been publishing fraud data.

#### 1) Publish fraud data

2) Meet all legal requirements to get grants from funding agencies

3) Lobby with the members of funding agency study sections by offering donations, effortless favor and get grants

4) Bargain high salaries with institutions where they are working using funding as bait

# Stimulus-triggered fate conversion of somatic cells into pluripotency

Haruko Obokata<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Teruhiko Wakayama<sup>3</sup>†, Yoshiki Sasai<sup>4</sup>, Koji Kojima<sup>1</sup>, Martin P. Vacanti<sup>1,5</sup>. Hitoshi Niwa<sup>6</sup>. Masavuki Yamato<sup>7</sup> & Charles A. Vacanti<sup>1</sup> 30 JANUARY 2014 | VOL 505 | NATURE

### Science Insider/AAAS August 6, 2014

# Senior RIKEN scientist involved in stem cell scandal commits suicide

MATORE | NEWS

A six-person committee — three RIKEN scientists, two university researchers

and a lawyer — looked at six problems. Four were dismissed as innocent errors,

but in two cases the committee found that Obokata had manipulated data in an

intentionally misleading fashion. They branded it scientific misconduct.

### Does Misconduct Occur in the Clinic? Dr. Baggerly will "wow" you with his talk on this!!

#### The Anil Potti retraction record so far

with 16 comments

A <u>60 Minutes segment Sunday on Anil Potti</u> has drawn national attention to the case, so we thought this would be a good time to compile all of the retractions and corrections in one place.

Duke has <u>said</u> that about a third of Potti's 40-some-odd papers would be retracted, and another third would have "a portion retracted with other components remaining intact," so this list will continue to grow. We'll update it as we hear about new changes.

#### Retractions:

- 1. "<u>Gene-expression patterns predict phenotypes of immune-mediated</u> <u>thrombosis</u>," in *Blood*
- 2. "<u>Upregulated Oncogenic Pathways in Patients Exposed to Tobacco Smoke May</u> <u>Provide a Novel Approach to Lung Cancer Chemoprevention</u>," in *CHEST*
- 3. "<u>Characterizing the Clinical Relevance of an Embryonic Stem Cell Phenotype in Lung Adenocarcinoma</u>," in *Clinical Cancer Research*
- 4. "<u>An Integrated Genomic-Based Approach to Individualized Treatment of Patients With Advanced-Stage</u> <u>Ovarian Cancer</u>" in the *Journal of Clinical Oncology* (JCO)
- 5. "<u>Pharmacogenomic Strategies Provide a Rational Approach to the Treatment of Cisplatin-Resistant</u> <u>Patients With Advanced Cancer</u>" also in the JCO
- 6. "<u>Gene Expression Signatures, Clinicopathological Features, and Individualized Therapy in Breast Cancer</u>" in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (JAMA)
- 7. "Validation of gene signatures that predict the response of breast cancer to neoadjuvant chemotherapy: a substudy of the EORTC 10994/BIG 00-01 clinical trial," in *The Lancet Oncology*
- 8. "Genomic signatures to guide the use of chemotherapeutics," in Nature Medicine
- 9. "<u>A Genomic Strategy to Refine Prognosis in Early-Stage Non-Small-Cell Lung Cancer</u>," in the *New England Journal of Medicine* (NEJM)
- 10. "<u>An Integrated Approach to the Prediction of Chemotherapeutic Response in Patients with Breast Cancer</u>" in *PLoS ONE*
- 11. "<u>A genomic approach to colon cancer risk stratification yields biologic insights into therapeutic opportunities</u>" in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* (PNAS)



Tracking retractions as

### Dr. Anil Potti is an oncologist in Grand Forks, North Dakota. He is a Board Certified

Medical Oncologist and Clinician and takes special interest in serving patients with blood and cancer problems. An alumnus of the University of North Dakota, he has received numerous awards like the Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA) Award, Resident of the Year Award and several Outstanding Teacher of the Year Awards. Presently, Dr. Potti looks forward to dedicating his efforts to helping cancer patients and their families in this region. As he says, "sure, the weather may be cold, but the people sure are warm."

### Ivan Oransky RetractionWatch.com

# What is the Impact of Retracted Clinical Papers on Patients?

Retractions in the medical literature: how many patients are put at risk by flawed research?

R Grant Steen

J Med Ethics (2011)

Table 1 Summary of the in	npact of 180	retracted clinical papers
	Number	Average per retracted paper
Citations of retracted papers		
Total citations	5503	30.6
Research-related citations	5143	28.6
Post-retraction citations	1973	11.0
Retraction-related citations	360	2.0
Review papers	1372	7.6
Patient studies	851	4.7
	•••	4.7
Subjects enrolled in retracted pape		
Total subjects	28783	160.8
Patients at risk	17783	99.3
Patients treated	9189	51.3
Subjects enrolled in secondary pap	ers	
Total subjects	445 064	2472.6
Patients at risk	165 588	919.9
Patients treated	70 501	391.7

Retracted papers impacted an average of 2,600 patients/paper

• When papers were retracted for fraud, ~1,500 patients were impacted \*\*\*This does not take into account patients impacted by fraudulent or faulty **preclinical** studies!!

## Famous Fraudulent Papers The Impacted Patient's Lives!

- Breast cancer and bone marrow transplants
   Bezwoda et al. 1999 ASCO Annual Meeting
- Autism and vaccines
   Wakefield et al. 1998 The Lancet
- Stem cells and tracheal transplants
  - Macchiarini et al. Karolinska, The Lancet

Wikipedia provides great summaries

### Vaccines and Autism Wakefield, et al. Lancet 1998

•Wakefield did not conduct the study according to ethical standards for research.

•Wakefield lied in the *Lancet* paper when he wrote that the participating children were referred independently after being diagnosed with IBD or other major GI issues. In fact, many of the children were chosen specifically by Wakefield, and others were recruited with the help of the same lawyer who was paying him to conduct the study.

•Wakefield subjected vulnerable autistic and other developmentally challenged children to a variety of difficult GI tests, including colonoscopy and lumbar puncture (i.e., spinal tap), without any medical indication to benefit the children.

•Even before publication of the study, Wakefield was working on patenting his own version of a measles vaccine, which he would sell at a great profit as a supposedly "safe" alternative to the MMR vaccine. The father of one of the children in Wakefield's study was a cofounder of the planned business that would market this product.

•Unrelated to the particular paper in question, the GMC panel also found that Wakefield had paid children at his own son's birthday party £5 each so he could draw their blood for use in his research. He later joked about this during a lecture.
 •And more including financial conflict of interest

## No Institute Is Immune!

#### Journal retracts 7 papers by MD Anderson cancer researcher long under investigation

An MD Anderson Cancer Center researcher who has been under investigation by the institution for at least several years has had seven papers retracted from a single journal. Bharat Aggarwal told us in 2012 that MD Anderson was investigating his work, but in 2013 threatened to sue us for reporting on the case. Aggarwal is ... Continue reading  $\rightarrow$ 

#### MD Anderson postdoc faked results of Novartis anti-cancer compound study

A former postdoc at MD Anderson Cancer Center faked the results of a mouse study of a Novartis compound designed to fight brain tumors, according to the Office of Research Integrity (ORI). Jun Fu "admitted to knowingly and intentionally falsifying Figure 8a" in "Novel HSP90 Inhibitor NVP-HSP990 Targets Cell-Cycle Regulators to Ablate Olig2-Positive Glioma Tumor–Initiating ... Continue

### A cancer researcher said she collected blood from 98 people. It was all her own.

A researcher collected her own blood and forged the labels so it would appear to be samples from nearly 100 people, according to a new finding of research misconduct released today by the U.S. Office of Research Integrity (ORI). The former researcher at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center swapped her own blood ... Continue reading  $\rightarrow$ 

#### Data fabrication by ex-Harvard researcher takes down paper on Huntington's disease

# Harvard teaching hospital to pay \$10 million to settle research misconduct allegations

Brigham and Women's Hospital and its parent healthcare network have agreed to pay \$10 million to the U.S. government to resolve allegations it fraudulently obtained federal funding. The case, which involves three former Harvard stem cell researchers, dates back several years. In 2014, Circulation retracted a paper by Piero Anversa, Annarosa Leri, and Jan Kajstura, ... Continue reading →

#### **Two more retractions appear for prominent MIT cancer researcher Robert Weinberg**

with 8 comments

# As PIs, we have to keep track of data in real time, not just when ready for submission to *CNS*.

Two identical retraction notices have popped up for MIT professor <u>Robert</u> <u>Weinberg</u>, a highly-cited cancer researcher who had <u>a retraction</u> and a <u>correction</u> in 2013, both in *Cancer Cell*.

These two new retractions, in *Genes and Development*, stem directly from <u>another paper by Weinberg</u> and <u>colleagues in *Cell*</u> that will apparently be retracted, as the "same analytical methodology was used," according to the notices [see bottom of the post for an update].

#### **Retraction Watch search**

### Retraction Watch Database: MD Anderson Cancer Center and Retractions

ISSN 2692-465X		Please see this	user guide before you get	started				
Author(s):	Type to search	Country(s		-	[		al Paper	
Tifle:	Type to search					To:		
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ransition is mediated by oxygen concentration in	pancreatic cancer cells	Data	Xi Chen	29731878		35242235	Retraction	United States
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Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN			Jennifer Specht					
Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX			Anna Marie Stornniolo Vicente Valero					
6University of Washington, Seattle, WA Indiana University, Indianapolis, IN			Christos Vaklavas					
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Ce	nter Houston TX		Ian E Krop					
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Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, MA			Robert S Miller					
Washington University in St Louis, St Louis, MO			Antonio C Wolff					
			Ashley Cimino-Mathews Ben H Park					
			Richard L Wahl					
			Vered Stearns					
The Akt inhibitor KP372-1 suppresses Akt activi	ty and cell proliferation and	+Concerns/Issues About Data	Mahitosh Mandal Seungwon Kim	05/03/2005		02/18/2021 33603199	Research Article Retraction	United States No
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Neoadjuvant chemotherapy as a comprehensive treatment in patients with	+Error in Analyses	Xian Feng Wei	03/18/2020		Clinical Study	China
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(HSC) Medicine - Oncology; (HSC) Medicine - Otorhinolaryngology; (HSC)		Peng Lin Li Li	10.1080/00016489.2020.1737330	10.1080/00016489.2020.1817662	4	No
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Department of Otorhinolaryngology Head and Neck, Tianjin First Central Hospital,	-	Xin Peng				
Tianjin, China		Chuan Liu				
Department of Head and Neck Surgery, University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer	-	Limei Liu				
Center, Houston, TX, USA		<u>Li Rong Wu</u> Guo Jun Li				
Department of Otorhinolaryngology, The First Affiliated Hospital of Chongqing		Yun Cheng Li				
Medical University, Chongqing, China Department of Ophthalmology, Yuhuangding Hospital of Qingdao University, Yantai,	-					
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niR-34a blocks osteoporosis and bone metastasis by inhibiting osteoclastogenesis	+Concerns/Issues About	ling V Krzeszinski	06/25/2014	06/01/2020	Letter	United St
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Department of Pharmacology, The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center,		Xunde Wang Tsung Cheng Chang	1 comment on PubPeer			
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Department of Molecular Biology, The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, 75390, Texas, USA		Lin He	Biskrensis)			
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Center, Dallas, 75390, Texas, USA Division of Cellular and Developmental Biology, Molecular and Cell Biology	-	Yihong Wan				
Division of Cellular and Developmental Biology, Molecular and Cell Biology Department, University of California at Berkeley, Berkeley, 94705, California, USA						
Department of Gynecologic Oncology and Reproductive Medicine. The University of						
Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, 77030, Texas, USA						
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### An IRB Approved Survey Conducted at The MD Anderson Cancer Center

OPEN O ACCESS Freely available online



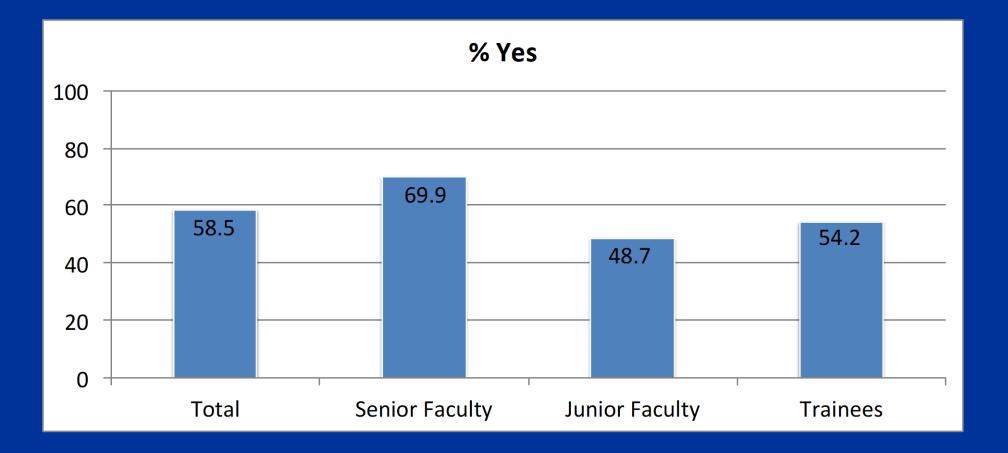
### A Survey on Data Reproducibility in Cancer Research Provides Insights into Our Limited Ability to Translate Findings from the Laboratory to the Clinic

Aaron Mobley<sup>1</sup>, Suzanne K. Linder<sup>2</sup>, Russell Braeuer<sup>1</sup>, Lee M. Ellis<sup>1,3</sup>\*, Leonard Zwelling<sup>4</sup>\*

240 responses in 6 hrs311 responses after 3 days

IRB Approved Protocol PI: Len Zwelling, MD Co-PI: Lee Ellis

## Have You Ever Tried To Reproduce A Finding From A Published Paper And Not Been Able To Do So?



Mobley at al. PlosOne 2013

Driving Forces for Irreproducible Data (>90 respondents-Trainees Only)

- Were you ever pressured to publish findings of which you had doubt?
  - 22%
- Have you noted pressure from a mentor to prove that his/her hypothesis was correct, even though the data you generated may not support the hypothesis?
  - 31%
- Are you aware of mentors who require a high impact publication before a trainee can leave the lab?
  - 49%

Mobley at al. PlosOne 2013

## Selected Comments From the Survey

- crumbling of integrity and value bean counters judging science by journal names institutional failure on dealing with alleged fraud.
- Everything here in US is screwed up. There is nothing to do other than move out.
   Who publishes more deserve respect, while others who are honest and cast doubt about their own results (or third party results) as condenmed. There is no way out. It is either join the "bright team" or be labeled as incompetent.
- ... my previous mentor and also our current neighbor lab PI push too much to produce best data all the time. .. sometimes it make trainee consider manipulates data only to escape from stress. Especially, many international trainees (postdoc) also have VISA issue. Thus, PI starts push them with visa issue trainees feel a lot of stress and eventually it make them can do whatever PI WANT.
- From my experience, no one will help you if you stand up for what is right. ....The system is unfortunately broken ....
- Pressure is ....from the job market and funding dynamics. The impact factor insanity is destroying science. A small group of powerful editors and friends control everything.

## A Survey on Data Reproducibility and the Effect of Publication Process on the Ethical Reporting of Laboratory Research

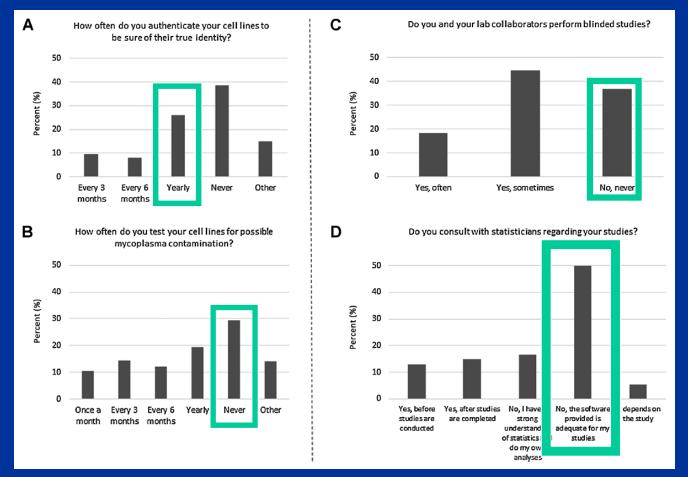
Delphine R. Boulbes<sup>1</sup>, Tracy Costello<sup>2</sup>, Keith Baggerly<sup>3</sup>, Fan Fan<sup>1</sup>, Rui Wang<sup>1</sup>, Rajat Bhattacharya<sup>1</sup>, Xiangcang Ye<sup>1</sup>, and Lee M. Ellis<sup>1,4</sup> Clin Cancer Res: 2018

Population Characteristics (n=467)

Students 10.7% Postdocs 89.3%

Cancer Biology 60.6%

## **Best Research Practices**

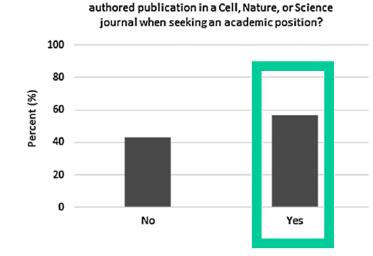


### Take home points

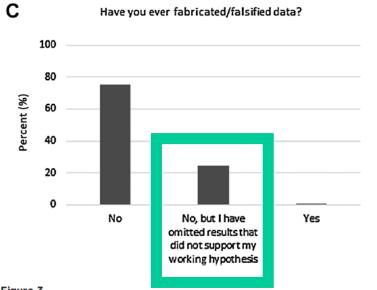
- <50% of investigators verify cell lines at least every yr</li>
- Just over half test for mycoplasma yearly
- < 20% of investigators perform blinded studies as a routine</li>
- < 50% consult with a statistician</li>

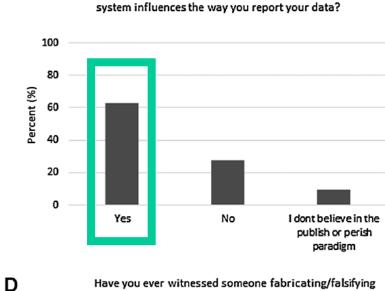
### **Research Integrity and Reporting Transparency**

В



Do you feel that it is necessary to have a first





Do you feel the pressure of the "publish or perish"

data to complete a project or paper?

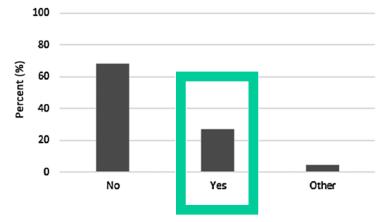


Figure 3.

Α

Responses to questions about research integrity and transparency. Responses were provided by all 467 respondents to questions 5 (A), 27 (B), 10 (C), and 11 (D).

## **The Publication Process**

- For 35% of participants, the revision process was >12 months for a high impact journal
- The cost of revision was >25K (40%) and >100K in 10%
- In 25% of those surveyed, the manuscript did not improve significantly after revision (in their opinion)

### Comment in Pubpeer

The findings of this paper are not particularly surprising. But I thought the conclusions and discussion was solidly grounded in the evidence they found. Your supervisor can tell you all they like that your career advancement doesn't depend on your results as long as you do good work, but then you see the big weightings on publication record in your fellowship application and you know what the real deal is. Unfortunately as sensible as the conclusions are, I see the likelihood of their implementation any time soon as likely as my negative results getting into Nature.

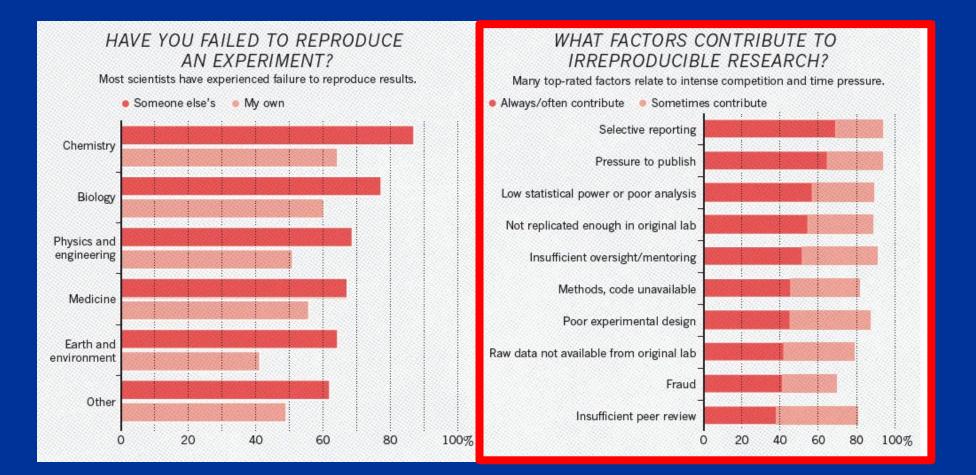
## The Erosion of Research Integrity: The Need For a Culture Change

- Integrity of laboratory research and how this impacts clinical outcomes
  - The issue at hand
    - The spectrum
  - Why does this occur?
  - What can we do to fix this?

# Causes of "Massaging" of Data

Trainees	Faculty
Occurs when trainees have a strong mentor - trainees do not want to challenge the hypothesis of the mentor - sometimes this is cultural - it is hard to challenge a mentor in the US when English is a 2nd language	"Publish or Perish" has morphed into only getting recognition for pubs in CNS (Cell, Nature, Science) – -Promotion and tenure for young faculty -Endowed Chairs for established investigators
Need high impact publications to obtain a job (or many pubs)	Grants: Preliminary data (Biosketch) for subsequent grants – some institutes require faculty to bring in 90-100% of salary off of grants
Cannot leave that lab as a post-doc, or cannot complete thesis as a student, unless you have a high impact publication	Stature and gratification (human nature)
	Financial gain: Patents and sublicensing

## Nature Survey, May 2016



Let's Talk About High Impact Publications and *"Impact Factor Mania"* 

And what this does to our culture!

Quote to a Post-Doc From a Successful Physician Scientist

"You are nothing unless you publish in CNS!"

### Causes for the Persistence of Impact Factor Mania

mBio 2014

### Arturo Casadevall,<sup>a</sup> Ferric C. Fang<sup>b</sup>

Departments of Microbiology & Immunology and Medicine, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, New York, USA<sup>a</sup>; Departments of Laboratory Medicine and Microbiology, University of Washington School of Medicine, Seattle, Washington, USA<sup>b</sup>

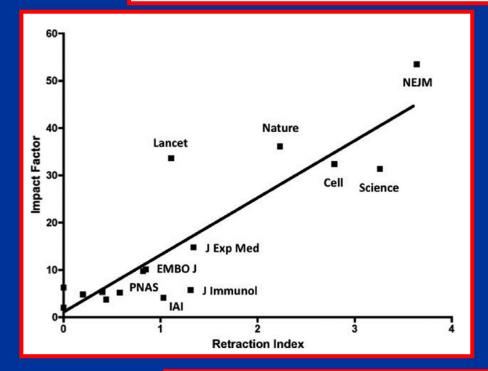
"...associating the value of research with the journal where the work was published rather than the content of the work itself. The mania is causing profound distortions in the way science is done that are deleterious to the overall scientific enterprise."

distortions in the way science is done that are deleterious to the overall scientific enterprise. In this essay, we consider the forces responsible for the persistence of the mania and conclude that it is maintained because it disproportionately benefits elements of the scientific enterprise, including certain well-established scientists, journals, and administrative interests. Our essay suggests steps that can be taken to deal with this debilitating and destructive epidemic.

### Should we eliminate the Impact Factor? Nathan S. Blow, Ph.D., Editor-in-Chief, *BioTechniques*

# EDITORIALFang and CasadevallEDITORIALInfection and Immunity, 2011Retracted Science and the Retraction Index∇

Articles may be retracted when their findings are no longer considered trustworthy due to scientific misconduct or error, they plagiarize previously published work, or they are found to violate ethical guidelines. Using a novel measure that we call the "retraction index," we found that the frequency of retraction varies among journals and shows a strong correlation with the journal impact factor. Although retractions are relatively rare, the retraction process is essential for correcting the literature and maintaining trust in the scientific process.



The higher the impact factor, the higher the retraction index (also in the New York Times)

"A man who has committed a mistake, and doesn't correct it, is committing another mistake." —attributed to Confucius

# Misconduct accounts for the majority of retracted scientific publications

Ferric C. Fang<sup>a,b,1</sup>, R. Grant Steen<sup>c,1</sup>, and Arturo Casadevall<sup>d,1,2</sup>

Departments of <sup>a</sup>Laboratory Medicine and <sup>b</sup>Microbiology, University of Washington School of Medicine, Seattle, WA 98195; <sup>c</sup>MediCC! Medical Communications Consultants, Chapel Hill, NC 27517; and <sup>d</sup>Department of Microbiology and Immunology, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, NY 10461

Edited by Thomas Shenk, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, and approved September 6, 2012 (received for review July 18, 2012)

# Nobel winner declares boycott of top science journals

Randy Schekman says his lab will no longer send papers to Nature, Cell and Science as they distort scientific process

How journals like Nature, Cell and Science are damaging science

Monday 9 December 2013 14.42 EST

Leading academic journals are distorting the scientific process and represent a "tyranny" that must be broken, according to a Nobel prize winner who has declared a boycott on the publications.

Schekman criticises Nature, Cell and Science for artificially restricting the number of papers they accept, a policy he says stokes demand "like fashion designers who create limited-edition handbags." He also attacks a widespread metric called an "impact factor", used by many top-tier journals in their marketing.

### www.theguardian.com

## Final, Final Comment on Impact Factor Mania

Strive for Nature But Don't Lie or Die for Nature (or compromise your ethics)

## The Erosion of Research Integrity: The Need For a Culture Change

- Integrity of laboratory research and how this impacts clinical outcomes
  - The issue at hand
    - The spectrum
  - Why does this occur?
  - What can we do to fix this?

# Overall, We Need to Be Kinder as Reviewers, Mentors, and Editors

- Research can be challenging when we are seeking significant gains in knowledge!
  - And sometimes, the unexpected findings may be the most interesting findings!
- We should not torture our trainees to the point where they *"massage"* data in order to satisfy the PI, have a paper published in a high impact journal, or both!
- Pls need to implement *best research practices* and not just expect a *CNS* paper to land on your desk
  - Pls should have updates and input from start to finish.

### 2014

Case Summary: Ahvazi, Bijan Case Summary: Chen, Li Case Summary: Cokonis, Melanie Case Summary: Deb, Kaushik Case Summary: Dzhura, Igor Case Summary: Freeman, Helen C. Case Summary: Freeman, Helen C. Case Summary: Fu, Jun Case Summary: Patel, Parag Case Summary: Patel, Parag Case Summary: Suzuki, Makoto Case Summary: Takahashi, Takao Case Summary: Warne, James P. Case Summary: Xing, H. Rosie Case Summary: Zou, Zhihua

### 2015

Case Summary: Anderson, David Case Summary: Asherin, Ryan Case Summary: Bitzegeio, Julia Case Summary: Blaylock, Brandi Lyn Case Summary: Briones, Teresita L Case Summary: Dasmahapatra, Girija Case Summary: Fujita, Ryousuke Case Summary: Fujita, Ryousuke Case Summary: Geraedts, Maria C.P. Case Summary: Geraedts, Maria C.P. Case Summary: Kang, Bin Case Summary: Littlefield, Peter Case Summary: Littlefield, Peter Case Summary: Massè, Julie Case Summary: Potti, Anil Case Summary: Reddy, Venkata J. Case Summary: Xiao, Dong



e About ORI News & Events Research Misconduct RCR Resources

R Resources Programs

Home >> Research Misconduct >> Case Summaries

#### Case Summaries

This page contains cases in which administrative actions were imposed due to findings of research misconduct. The list only includes those who CURRENTLY have an imposed administrative actions against them. It does NOT include the names of individuals whose administrative actions periods have expired.

o (ao	2016	2018	2020
P.	Case Summary: Cullinane, Andrew R.	Case Summary: Baughman, Brandi M. Case Summary: Elgutub, Maria Cristina Miron	Case Summary: Downs, Charles

# And, in 2021, there was a case of misconduct in the TMC!

### 2017

Case Summary: Baughman, Brandi Case Summary: Chegini, Nasser Case Summary: Chetram, Mahandranauth Case Summary: El-Remessy, Azza Case Summary: Endo, Matthew Case Summary: Mirchandani, Alec Case Summary: Sauer, Frank Case Summary: Sen, Shiladitya Case Summary: Skau, Colleen T. Case Summary: Srivastava, Rakesh Case Summary: Wang, Li

2019

Case Summary: Cruikshank, William W. Case Summary: Malhotra, Deepti Case Summary: Neumeister, Alexander Case Summary: Potts Kant, Erin N. Case Summary: Yakkanti, Sudhakar

## May, 2022

Case Summary: Downs, Charles A.		
se Summary: I	Fulford, Logan	
se Summary: Jaiswal, Anil Kumar		
se Summary: Jayant, Rahul Dev		
se Summary: Kim, Shin-Hee		
se Summary: Nemani, Prasadarad		
se Summary: i	Panka, David	
Case Summary: Tataroglu, Ozgur		
Case Summary: Wan, Yihong		
Case Summary: Wang, Zhiwei		
2021	າດາາ	
	2022	

- A

2021 2022 3 cases 5 cases so far

Are We Doing Enough to Punish Those Who Violate Our Trust? What are the consequences of being found guilty of misconduct?

## Most Common ORI Actions

- Retract paper(s)
- Have research supervised for 3 yrs
- No service on committees for 2-3 yrs
- Most can still receive NIH funding
- For those found guilty of fraud, we must have a punishment that fits the crime.
- What is the deterrent for such behavior?
- Indeed, the entire system needs an overhaul, but let's start with making outright fraud something that can be deterred by tough punishment and prohibits this person from ever having the chance to do this again.
  - This is, of course, even more important for clinical fraud

## The Primary Inquiry Rests With Your NIH Funded Institution What the Office of Research Integrity Does

- Implements PHS regulations requiring institutions respond to allegations of research misconduct
- Assures institutions requesting PHS
   In place to deal with allegations
   In place to deal with allegations
- Provides assistance and Constitutions
- Can perform own i ON aon
- Leaves principle on sibility with the individual institutions
- Institute Cesearch Integrity Officer
   -ML C: W. Plunkett

## Mechanism for Addressing Misconduct Is Institutional Dependent

- Allegations may be brought to Departmeness, Division Head, or to the Provost and FERENE Vice President (EVP)
- Provost & EVP and Reserve Orgrity Officer (RIO) will assess the allegation
- Information-c C and initial fact finding.

- Correction of an Inquiry Panel of at least 3 faculty chosen by EVP and the Res Integrity Officer.

Bill Plunkett, PhD

"....you've uncovered a thorny problem in academia—selfishness. In moments of weakness or at the extremes, this creates an undertow away from integrity in science and public health. This is the single biggest limitation in our field,....."

John Lenna (070) GIVE ME SOME TRUTH 9 m sick and tired of reading-lines by seasick-nonrew-minded - short-sighted-hypercritics, -all 9 want in the truth - just give me some truth

THE RIGHT TO SEARCH FOR TRUTH IMPLIES ALSO A DUTY; ONE MUST NOT CONCEAL ANY PART OF WHAT ONE HAS RECOGNIZED TO BE TRUE. AIBERT FINSTEIN 1879 - 1955