

From: Weindorf, David C
To: Dunbar, Gary
Subject: RE: Articles with questionable figures
Date: Monday, October 25, 2021, 10:04:00 AM
Attachments: image007.png
image003.png

Thank you Gary—

DCW



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We uphold and honor the traditional lands of the Council of Three Fires: the Anishnaabe peoples of whom the traditional Saginaw Chippewa nation is one.

From: Dunbar, Gary <dunba1g@cmich.edu>
Sent: Monday, October 25, 2021, 10:00 AM
To: Weindorf, David C <weind1dc@cmich.edu>
Subject: Re: Articles with questionable figures

David: Just a quick update on the status of the articles in question. I met with Dr. Field and we both asked Dr. Maiti about the images. He admitted that all the incorrect images inserted into the three articles in which he was first author were his fault but claimed no intent to deceive. The first authors of the other two articles have taken responsibility for those mistakes and our review of the data indicate that these did not affect any of the analyses or scientific conclusions in those articles so we are contacting the journals to convey this and request that corrected figures be published as a Corrigendum. We are re-checking all of Dr. Maiti's articles to make sure that none of the data are compromised and for those articles in which we are sure that all other data is correct we will ask to have the corrected figures published as a Corrigendum but in any article where this is not the case we will ask to have the article retracted. We are taking strong measures to ensure this does not happen in the future including requiring that all images be selected by at least two people working together and that all co-authors double-check to make sure the proper images are submitted. The co-authors and I are convinced that the incorrect images in the two articles in which Dr. Maiti was not the lead author were honest mistakes. However, the others are being thoroughly checked at this time. I will keep you updated on the status of this as we proceed to ensure that the proper steps are taken to rectify all mistakes. Gary

From: Dunbar, Gary
Sent: Thursday, October 21, 2021, 10:42 PM
To: Weindorf, David C <weind1dc@cmich.edu>
Subject: Articles with questionable figures

David

Thanks for calling me right away as I want to rectify this matter asap. As I mentioned to you on the phone, I am highly suspicious that one of my collaborators has used some microphotographs that were replicates and, thus, did not truly represent the data accurately. These have been flagged down by a process called Pubpeer, which uses high-tech devices to catch these sorts of things. Although I did not suspect this, nor catch it in my review of each of the articles below—nor did any of the other co-authors or the reviewers of the manuscripts, it is seems clear to me after viewing the framed duplicates flagged by Pubpeer in these articles and in two other articles from the former lab at UCLA (see attachments and example pasted below) from which my colleague and collaborator had worked that a pattern of inappropriate data presentations has occurred. Julien and I have gone over two of the manuscripts in which the lead authors were [REDACTED]. None of the figures in question were part of either of these documents so we are relieved that the data and its representation in [REDACTED] are not problematic. However, these were changed for the published manuscript, and we suspect that our collaborator on this project may be responsible for this, given the pre-existing pattern of this happening. As such, we have no reason to doubt the veracity of the dissertation or thesis work. We suspect that it is only the figures that are faulty in both (and perhaps all) of those manuscripts, so we are going through both of these as well as the three other papers with suspicious figures to verify whether or not the data is valid. As I indicated to you, I will be meeting with Dr. Field tomorrow morning to discuss this matter and what actions should be taken. Obviously, if there is any indication that anything besides the figures were misrepresenting the data, I would like to retract those entire manuscripts in question as soon as possible. If the data and analyses are sound, we could send in an accurate picture for the figure in question as an Erratum to the journal(s). As I indicate to you, I am both shocked and heartsick about this, but fervently want to do what is right asap. I will contact you after my meeting with Dr. Field, and perhaps a meeting with all of us, as you suggested, would be in order before any formal accusations are made.

Thanks Again,

Gary

Maiti, P., #Paladugu, L., and Dunbar, G.L. (2018). Solid lipid curcumin particles provide greater anti-amyloid, anti-inflammatory and neuroprotective effects than dietary curcumin in the 5xFAD mouse model of Alzheimer's disease. *BMC Neuroscience*, 19(7): 1-18. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12868-018-0406-3>

#Peruzzaro, S.T., #Andrews, M.M.M., #Al-Gharabeh, A., *Pupiec, O., #Story, D., Maiti, P., Rossignol, J., and Dunbar, G.L. (2019). Transplantation of mesenchymal stem cells genetically engineered to overexpress interleukin-10 promotes alternative inflammatory response in rat model of traumatic brain injury. *Journal of Neuroinflammation* 16: 1-15. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12974-018-1383-2>

Maiti, P., Manna, J., *Burch, Z.N., Flaherty, D.B., Larkin, J.D., and Dunbar, G.L. (2020). Ameliorative properties of boronic compounds in vitro and in vivo models of Alzheimer's disease. *Int. J. Mol. Sci.* 21, 6664; <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijms21186664>

Paladugu, L., Gharabeh, A., Kollu, N., Learman, C., Hall, T.C., Li, L., Rossignol, J., Maiti, P., and Dunbar, G.L. (2021). Liraglutide has anti-inflammatory and anti-amyloid properties in streptozotocin-induced and 5xFAD mouse models of Alzheimer's disease. *Int. J. Mol. Sci.*, 22(2), 860; <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijms22020860>

Maiti, P., #Bowers, Z.L., *Bourcier, A., *Morse, J., and Dunbar, G.L. (2021). Preservation of dendritic spine morphology and postsynaptic signaling markers after treatment with solid lipid curcumin particles in the 5xFAD mouse model of Alzheimer's disease. *Alzheimer's Research & Therapy* 13: 37-59; <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13195-021-00769-9>

Surprising toxicity and assembly behaviour of amyloid β -protein oxidized to sulfone

The Biochemical journal (2011) - 2 Comments

pubmed: 21044048 doi: 10.1042/bj20101391 issn: 0264-6021 issn: 1470-8728

Panchanan Maiti , Roberto Piacentini , Cristian Ripoli, Claudio Grassi, Gal Bitan 

#1 *Actinopolyspora Biskrensis* commented April 2021

Figure S2 appears to have a repeated image.

