

**From:** [Molly Lu](#)  
**To:** [Dunbar, Gary](#)  
**Cc:** [ijms@mdpi.com](mailto:ijms@mdpi.com); [Weindorf, David C](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [External] Re: Corrections to manuscript: your two papers ijms-898249 and ijms-1061519  
**Date:** Saturday, October 7, 2023 11:51:23 PM

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Dear Gary,

Thank you for your message. We are glad that you are repeating the experiment, and look forward to your further feedback.

For any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Kind regards,

Molly

On 2023/10/7 22:09, Dunbar, Gary wrote:

> Dear Molly,

>

> Thank you for your message, and the answer to your question is a  
> definite yes. We are committed to repeating both the behavioral and  
> neuropathological portions of the boron and liraglutide studies. We  
> have IACUC approval for the boron study and our application for  
> approval for the liraglutide study has already been submitted and we  
> are eager to complete these studies. I hope you might convince your  
> colleagues to allow us time to redo critical parts of these studies  
> so that we can provide the readers with an accurate and complete  
> analyses, along with access to the complete data sets for both of  
> these studies. I greatly appreciate your help and kind consideration  
> in this manner.

>

> With Kind Regards,

>

> Gary

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>

> \*From:\* Molly Lu <[molly.lu@mdpi.com](mailto:molly.lu@mdpi.com)>

> \*Sent:\* Saturday, October 7, 2023 5:46 AM \*To:\* Dunbar, Gary

> <[dunbar1g@cmich.edu](mailto:dunbar1g@cmich.edu)> \*Cc:\* Weindorf, David C <[weind1dc@cmich.edu](mailto:weind1dc@cmich.edu)>;

> [ijms@mdpi.com](mailto:ijms@mdpi.com) <[ijms@mdpi.com](mailto:ijms@mdpi.com)> \*Subject:\* [External] Re: Corrections

> to manuscript: your two papers ijms-898249 and ijms-1061519 Dear

> Gary,

>

> Hope everything goes smoothly with you. May I ask if there is  
> possibility that you repeat the experiment and provide original  
> figures?

>

> Look forward to your reply.

>

> Kind regards,

>

> Molly

>

> On 2023/10/7 17:44, Molly Lu wrote:

>> Dear David,

>>

>> Hope everything goes smoothly with you. As a member of the  
>> Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE), we are obliged to closely  
>> observe their guidelines when it comes to removing an article from  
>> the scientific record  
>> (<https://publicationethics.org/retraction-guidelines>). Please be  
>> aware this can take some time as this process necessitates  
>> significant coordination between the editorial office, editorial  
>> board members, and the ethics committee. None the less, this  
>> situation is a priority for us and we will provide you with an  
>> update as soon as we possible can.

>>

>> Hope you could understand it.

>>

>> Kind regards,

>>

>> Molly

>>

>> On 2023/5/12 17:55, Molly Lu wrote:

>>> Dear David,

>>>

>>> Thank you for your message. We are asking the decision from  
>>> editorial board members, and will reply to you once we receive  
>>> the replies. Thank you for your patience.

>>>

>>> Kind regards,

>>>

>>> Molly

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>>> On 2023/5/10 22:27, Weindorf, David C wrote:

>>>> Ms. Lu:

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>>>> I am in receipt of correspondence between Dr. Gary Dunbar and  
>>>> yourself regarding two papers that need to be retracted from  
>>>> IJMS immediately. Dr. Dunbar has diligently pursued these  
>>>> retractions with my full support. As the senior research  
>>>> officer of Central Michigan University, I am now compelled to  
>>>> reach out and ask for an update. Can you please see to it that  
>>>> these papers are properly retracted immediately? Context for  
>>>> the request is given below. Should you have any questions  
>>>> concerning the request, do contact me at your earliest  
>>>> convenience. We appreciate your assistance—

>>>>

>>>> Respectfully,

>>>>

>>>> David W.

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>>>> \*David C. Weindorf, Ph.D., P.G.\* Vice President for Research  
>>>> and Innovation Foust 251 | Central Michigan University P:  
>>>> 989.774.6467 | E: weind1dc@cmich.edu  
>>>> <<mailto:weind1dc@cmich.edu>>

>>>>

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>>>>

>>>> /We uphold and honor the traditional lands of the Council of  
>>>> Three Fires, the Anishinaabe peoples, of whom the traditional  
>>>> Saginaw Chippewa nation is one./

>>>>

>>>> \*From:\* Dunbar, Gary <dunbalg@cmich.edu> \*Sent:\* Tuesday, May  
>>>> 2, 2023 10:21 AM \*To:\* Weindorf, David C <weind1dc@cmich.edu>  
>>>> \*Subject:\* Fw: [External] Corrections to manuscript: your  
>>>> two,papers ijms-898249 and ijms-1061519

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>>>> Hi David: Here is the message I sent to Molly Lu on 4/3.

>>>> Gary

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> \*From:\*Dunbar, Gary <dunbalg@cmich.edu <<mailto:dunbalg@cmich.edu>>>

>>>> \*Sent:\* Monday, April 3, 2023 3:31 PM \*To:\* Molly Lu

>>>> <molly.lu@mdpi.com <<mailto:molly.lu@mdpi.com>>> \*Cc:\*

>>>> ijms@mdpi.com <<mailto:ijms@mdpi.com>> <ijms@mdpi.com

>>>> <<mailto:ijms@mdpi.com>>> \*Subject:\* Re: [External] Corrections

>>>> to manuscript: your two,papers ijms-898249 and ijms-1061519

>>>>

>>>> Dear Molly:

>>>>

>>>> I hope all is well with you. I am following up on your message  
>>>> of 9-6-2023 in response to our request to have the manuscripts  
>>>> ijms-1061519and ijms 898249retracted. As I indicated in my  
>>>> message to you at that time, we were unable to verify the  
>>>> corrections we made when Dr. Maiti was running the Field  
>>>> Neurosciences Institute (FNI) lab in Saginaw. I want to point  
>>>> out that neither of these papers were generated from my lab at  
>>>> Central Michigan University (CMU) as all the work on both of  
>>>> these papers was done in the FNI lab in Saginaw (50 miles from  
>>>> CMU) in which Dr. Maiti served as lead scientist. Furthermore,  
>>>> I want to emphasize that of the 120+ other articles I have  
>>>> published during the past 40+ years (outside of my recent

>>>> collaborations with Dr. Maiti), none contained any of these  
>>>> problems. The procedures used by Dr. Maiti in the FNI lab at  
>>>> Saginaw were different from those used in my lab at CMU,  
>>>> partly because none of the lab computers in the FNI lab in  
>>>> Saginaw had internet connections so all the data had to be  
>>>> stored and transferred via portable devices. This probably  
>>>> contributed to some of the problems. However, in retrospect,  
>>>> more stringent lab protocols (such as requiring more than one  
>>>> researcher to select representative images) should have be  
>>>> utilized in that lab.

>>>>  
>>>> To his credit, Dr. Maiti has taken full responsibility for the  
>>>> errors he made (on these and other papers), but he was unable  
>>>> to fulfill his promise to us that he could correct them,  
>>>> despite concerted efforts to do so. Although his initial  
>>>> corrections appeared sound to us, our attempts at verifying  
>>>> these after Dr. Maiti's departure from FNI indicated that the  
>>>> problems extended beyond duplicate images. For the liraglutide  
>>>> study (ijms-1061519) we were unable to find the complete set of  
>>>> images used in the study. Similarly, after going over the  
>>>> original data in the boron study (ijms 898249), image-by-image  
>>>> (using duplicate-image software) , we detected some overlap in  
>>>> images that were used in both the original and corrected cell  
>>>> counts, nullifying the efforts to do recounts on this data.  
>>>> Nonetheless, we used the backup tissue to run another batch of  
>>>> cresyl-violet staining to redo the counts of pyknotic cells,  
>>>> but, unfortunately, our counts did not confirm the original  
>>>> finding of a boron-induced protection. In addition, we had  
>>>> enough tissue from the 12-month-old mouse brains to run a  
>>>> Western blot to assess whether the TBSA boron compound could  
>>>> reduce beta-amyloid levels (as we and others have reported),  
>>>> but after repeating this, only a trend towards a significant  
>>>> reduction was observed (see attachments).

>>>>  
>>>> Although we still have confidence in the /in vitro/ work, we  
>>>> were unable to verify the histological data, despite hundreds  
>>>> of hours of additional work. Presently, we are in the process  
>>>> of redoing the /in vivo/ portions of the liraglutide and boron  
>>>> studies, but this will take several months. In the meantime,  
>>>> we are hoping that IJMS will honor our request to have these  
>>>> papers retracted. Although those at fault have admitted their  
>>>> mistakes, the rest of us co-authors have suffered considerable  
>>>> humiliation, including slanderous accusations, which have  
>>>> occurred since we requested to have the papers retracted.

>>>>  
>>>> Please let me know what needs to be done to facilitate the  
>>>> process of retracting these papers. We will do our very best  
>>>> to accommodate any requests or additional paperwork needed to  
>>>> expedite this.

>>>>

>>>> With Kind Regards,

>>>>

>>>> Gary

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>>>> Gary L. Dunbar, Ph.D.

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