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Dr. Lila Gierasch, Editor in Chief
Journal of Biological Chemistry, c/o ASBMB,
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Subject:

Article 24: **Saha, K., & Eckert, R. L. (2015). Methylosome protein 50 and PKCδ/p38δ protein signaling control keratinocyte proliferation via opposing effects on p21Cip1 Gene Expression. Journal of Biological Chemistry, 290(21), 13521-13530.**

Article 30.1: **Saha, K., Adhikary, G., Kanade, S. R., Rorke, E. A., & Eckert, R. L. (2014). p38δ regulates p53 to control p21Cip1 expression in human epidermal keratinocytes. Journal of Biological Chemistry, 289(16), 11443-11453.**

Article 46: **Yap Ching Chew, Gautam Adhikary, Gerald M. Wilson, E. Albert Reece, and Richard L. Eckert (2011). Protein Kinase C (PKC) Suppresses Keratinocyte Proliferation by Increasing p21Cip1 Level by a KLF4 Transcription Factor-dependent Mechanism. JBC,286 (33) pp. 28772–28782.**

Dear Dr. Gierasch,

I am writing as the Interim Provost and Executive Vice President of the University of Maryland, Baltimore regarding the Subject publications.

The University of Maryland, Baltimore conducted an internal investigation which found by a preponderance of the evidence that the Subject articles were compromised and the investigation committee recommended retraction in order to correct the scientific record and ensure its integrity. The University leaves the final decision to retract or correct to the discretion of the journal.

Below are the findings:

- Article 24:

Figure 1B was falsified by changing the labelling. The published figure purports to show MEP 50 when it is P21. Some of the empty area of the film was used to fabricate a control condition

(PcDNA3 for FLAG). Finally, beta actin used in the final figure is from different treatments (DMSO or SFN).

As presented, Figure 1B was falsified and fabricated to support the data described in the article.

- Article 30.1:

Figures 2B and 6C were falsified by using the same Western blots at different exposure.

Figure 6C was fabricated by showing no signal for ATF2-P, which in the raw data show that the area that was selected for this figure was taken from an area of the film where ATF2-P is not expected.

Figure 2C was falsified by insertion of a band in the blot with effort to conceal the splice using a brush tool and the negative control was picked from a part of the film area that was not exposed to the blot membrane.

Figure 6C is falsified by renaming blots that were used in Figure 2C. In Figure 6C, the labeling shows p38α, while in Figure 2C they are labeled as MEK3 bands.

Figure 2B was falsified by showing the wrong labelling. Kern cells were infected with Ad5 constructs while the raw data comes from Scc cell and Kern cells treated with DM or SFN.

As presented, Figures 2B, 2C and 6C are falsified western blots suggesting that either the actual experiments have never been performed or the western blots never showed the results described in the article.

- Article 46:

Figure 7C was falsified by using a paintbrush tool. The hKLF4-siRNA (3ug) condition was paint brushed to create a thinner band. The raw data used for the figure has conditions (Ad5-EV and AD5-PKC) different from the published figure (hKLF4-siRNA).

The Committee reviewed evidence that shows that the hKLF4-siRNA (3ug) condition was paint brushed to create a thinner band.
As presented, Figure 7C is falsified in order to support the data presented in the article.

Sincerely,

Dr. Roger J. Ward, JD, MSL, MPA
Interim Provost & Executive Vice President

Cc: Dean E. Albert Reece, Dean of the School of Medicine
Stephan Vigues, Research Integrity Officer