



Stop Animal Exploitation NOW!

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1/20/23

Dr. Runko,

I am writing to you to insist that ORI launch a full Research Misconduct review regarding multiple federally funded publications, which are connected to the University of Michigan (UM). UM research staff are clearly involved in a major case of Research Misconduct. Internal investigations conducted by the school have led to admissions of Research Misconduct in connection to the retraction of four separate journal articles published over the course of nine years. Collectively these publications have been connected to over \$5 million in federal grants. The University of Michigan has admitted that all of these publications have involved falsified/fabricated data.

Three publications have been retracted very recently (1/17/23), and all of them are federally funded. The first one is: ***Cocaine- and amphetamine-regulated transcript is the neurotransmitter regulating the action of cholecystikinin and leptin on short-term satiety in rats*** (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3517666/>)

***“This study was supported by the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases Grants R01 DK 48419 and P30 DK 34933”:***

**GASTROINTESTINAL HORMONE RESEARCH CORE CENTER**

5P30DK034933-19    [OWYANG, CHUNG](#)    UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN AT ANN ARBOR    2004    NIDDK    NIDDK    \$1,000,000

**Characterization of Portal Vein Glucose Sensor Responsible for Satiety Control**

2R01DK048419-15    [OWYANG, CHUNG](#)    UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN AT ANN ARBOR    2012    NIDDK    NIDDK    \$338,213

The retraction statement for this publication says: ***“The American Physiological Society is issuing a retraction of this article at the request of the University of Michigan. Following a review, a university research misconduct investigation committee found that there was falsification and/or fabrication of immunocytochemistry data in Fig. 1, A, B, and D. In addition, the committee determined that there was falsification and/or fabrication of Western blot data in Fig. 5, B and D.”***

The second UM publication which has recently been retracted is: ***Low-affinity CCK-A receptors are coexpressed with leptin receptors in rat nodose ganglia: implications for leptin as a regulator of short-term satiety*** (<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/21109591/>)

**“This work was supported by the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases Grants DK 48419 and DK 34933 (C. Owyang)”, as listed above.**


The retraction statement for this publication also discusses data falsification and fabrication:

**“The American Physiological Society is issuing a retraction of this article at the request of the University of Michigan. Following a review, a university research misconduct investigation committee found that there was falsification and/or fabrication of NG neuron recording data by the reuse of portions of the same trace data in Fig. 1, A–C; reuse of portions of the same trace data in Fig. 2, A, B, and D; reuse of portions of the same trace data in Fig. 4, A–E; and reuse of portions of the same trace data in Fig. 5, A and B.”**

The third publication to be retracted recently was: **Role for NMDA receptors in visceral nociceptive transmission in the anterior cingulate cortex of viscerally hypersensitive rats** (<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/18258793/>)

**“This research was supported by the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke Grant RO1 NS051466-01 (Y. Li) and the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases Grants R01-DK-51717 (Y. Li) and P30-DK 34933 (C. Owyang).”**

#### GASTROINTESTINAL HORMONE RESEARCH CORE CENTER

<a href="#">5P30DK034933-19</a>	 <a href="#">OWYANG, CHUNG</a>	UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN AT ANN ARBOR	2004	NIDDK	NIDDK	\$1,000,000
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#### ACC Sensitization in Visceral Hypersensitive Rats

<a href="#">5R01NS051466-03</a>	 <a href="#">LI, YING</a>	UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN AT ANN ARBOR	2008	NINDS	NINDS	\$331,027
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#### Neurotransmission evoked by 5HT-dependent luminal factor

<a href="#">5R01DK051717-08</a>	 <a href="#">LI, YING</a>	UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN AT ANN ARBOR	2005	NIDDK	NIDDK	\$229,472
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The retraction statement for this publication says: **“The American Physiological Society is issuing a retraction of this article at the request of the University of Michigan. Following a review, a university research misconduct investigation committee found that there was falsification and/or fabrication of ACC neuron recording data by the internal reuse of a portion of the same trace data in the Sham/Glutamate 500  $\mu$ M sample in Fig. 3A and falsification and/or fabrication of ACC neuron recording data by the internal reuse of a portion of the same trace data within Fig. 5B.”**

The publication which was retracted earlier is: **Wu X, Gao J, Yan J, Owyang C, Li Y. Hypothalamus–brain stem circuitry responsible for vagal efferent signaling to the pancreas evoked by hypoglycemia in rat.** (<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/14645380/>) Retraction date: 11/28/22.

According to this article the work was federally funded: **“This investigation was supported by Michigan Life Sciences Corridor Grant1635 to Y. Li and National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and KidneyDiseases Grants RO1-DK-51717 to Y. Li and P30-DK-34933 to C. Owyang.”**

#### Neurotransmission evoked by 5HT-dependent luminal factor

<a href="#">5R01DK051717-07</a>	 <a href="#">LI, YING</a>	UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN AT ANN ARBOR	2004	NIDDK	NIDDK	\$229,472
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#### GASTROINTESTINAL HORMONE RESEARCH CORE CENTER

<a href="#">5P30DK034933-19</a>	 <a href="#">OWYANG, CHUNG</a>	UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN AT ANN ARBOR	2004	NIDDK	NIDDK	\$1,000,000
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The retraction notice for this article also discusses falsification/fabrication of data:

***“The American Physiological Society is issuing a retraction of this article at the request of the University of Michigan. Following a review, a university research misconduct investigation committee found that there was falsification and/or fabrication of vagal pancreatic efferent nerve recording data by internal reuse of portions of the same trace data in Figs. 2A, 5A, 5C, 10A, 10B, and 12C. In addition, the committee determined that there was falsification and/or fabrication of immunocytochemistry data by the reuse of single-cell images in Fig. 9A.”***

In the last three months the University of Michigan has admitted that research staff falsified/fabricated data in four separate publications, and all of those publications have been retracted.

These articles are collectively connected to multiple grants totaling over \$5 million.

Since the University of Michigan has admitted that the data for these publications has been either fabricated or falsified, as the retraction notices clearly state, all of these publications would qualify as Research Misconduct. The definition of Research Misconduct, as stated on the Office of Research Integrity website:

“Research misconduct means fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism in proposing, performing, or reviewing research, or in reporting research results.

(a) Fabrication is making up data or results and recording or reporting them.

(b) Falsification is manipulating research materials, equipment, or processes, or changing or omitting data or results such that the research is not accurately represented in the research record.

(c) Plagiarism is the appropriation of another person's ideas, processes, results, or words without giving appropriate credit.”

Since the data/conclusions in these articles was falsified and/or fabricated, there must be consequences for these heinous acts. Therefore, you must launch a full investigation of these University of Michigan publications, and all the associated authors.

It is even worse that hundreds of rats were subjected to highly invasive procedures and killed for fraudulent experiments. This project, took the lives of animals to produce data that was, according to the University of Michigan itself, falsified.

At the end of the investigation I am certain that the events surrounding these retractions will be judged to constitute Research Misconduct. A multi-year pattern of fabricated/falsified data involving many of the same staff in multiple publications would appear to be intentional.

I will expect a response from your office within 5 business days.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Budkie, A.H.T.,  
Executive Director, SAEN

Attachment: 4 Journal Article Retractions

## RETRACTION

### Retraction for Hedsinger et al., volume 303, 2012, p. G1042–G1051

**Hedsinger A, Lu Y, Zhou S-I, Wu X, Grabauskas G, Song I, Owyang C.** Cocaine- and amphetamine-regulated transcript is the neurotransmitter regulating the action of cholecystokinin and leptin on short-term satiety in rats. *Am J Physiol Gastrointest Liver Physiol* 303: G1042–G1051, 2012. First published November 1, 2012. doi:10.1152/ajpgi.00231.2012.

The American Physiological Society is issuing a retraction of this article at the request of the University of Michigan. Following a review, a university research misconduct investigation committee found that there was falsification and/or fabrication of immunocytochemistry data in Fig. 1, *A*, *B*, and *D*. In addition, the committee determined that there was falsification and/or fabrication of Western blot data in Fig. 5, *B* and *D*.

**RETRACTION**

**Retraction for Li et al., volume 300, 2011, p. G217–G227**

**Li Y., Wu X., Zhou S., and Owyang C.** Low-affinity CCK-A receptors are coexpressed with leptin receptors in rat nodose ganglia: implications for leptin as a regulator of short-term satiety. *Am J Physiol Gastrointest Liver Physiol* 300: G217–G227, 2011. First published February 1, 2011; doi: 10.1152/ajpgi.00356.2010.

The American Physiological Society is issuing a retraction of this article at the request of the University of Michigan. Following a review, a university research misconduct investigation committee found that there was falsification and/or fabrication of NG neuron recording data by the reuse of portions of the same trace data in Fig. 1, A–C; reuse of portions of the same trace data in Fig. 2, A, B, and D; reuse of portions of the same trace data in Fig. 4, A–E; and reuse of portions of the same trace data in Fig. 5, A and B.

## RETRACTION

### Retraction for Wu et al., volume 294, 2008, p. G918–G927

**Wu X, Gao J, Yan J, Fan J, Owyang C, and Li Y.** Role for NMDA receptors in visceral nociceptive transmission in the anterior cingulate cortex of viscerally hypersensitive rats. *Am J Physiol Gastrointest Liver Physiol* 294: G918–G927, 2008. First published April 1, 2008. doi: 10.1152/ajpgi.00452.2007.

The American Physiological Society is issuing a retraction of this article at the request of the University of Michigan. Following a review, a university research misconduct investigation committee found that there was falsification and/or fabrication of ACC neuron recording data by the internal reuse of a portion of the same trace data in the Sham/Glutamate 500  $\mu$ M sample in Fig. 3A and falsification and/or fabrication of ACC neuron recording data by the internal reuse of a portion of the same trace data within Fig. 5B.

## RETRACTION

### Retraction for Wu et al., volume 91, 2004, p. 1734–1747

**Wu X, Gao J, Yan J, Owyang C, Li Y.** Hypothalamus-brain stem circuitry responsible for vagal efferent signaling to the pancreas evoked by hypoglycemia in rat. *J Neurophysiol* 91: 1734–1747, 2004. First published April 1, 2004. doi: 10.1152/jn.00791.2003.

The American Physiological Society is issuing a retraction of this article at the request of the University of Michigan. Following a review, a university research misconduct investigation committee found that there was falsification and/or fabrication of vagal pancreatic efferent nerve recording data by internal reuse of portions of the same trace data in Figs. 2A, 5A, 5C, 10A, 10B, and 12C. In addition, the committee determined that there was falsification and/or fabrication of immunocytochemistry data by the reuse of single-cell images in Fig. 9A.