

**Plasma Physics Research Center**

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Dear Publisher and Editor,

To our chagrin, we learned from a report by the “Retraction Watch” that a number of papers have been retracted by the Elsevier in which the name of our institute, Plasma Physics Research Center (PPRC) appears as the affiliation and my name as one of the authors. We received this unpleasant surprise with dismay. PPRC is one of the most prestigious research center in our country and a center of excellence in education and research. The PPRC was inaugurated in 1993 with the aim of training qualified students and doing cutting edge research in physical sciences. Our center enjoys large facilities for training under graduate and postgraduate students and conducting research in physical sciences like plasma physics. It has currently over 30 academic staff and around 300 postgraduate students. Our group has published many papers in prestigious peer reviewed journals and has followed high standard of academic practices. For years PPRC has been collaborating with foreign scientific centers and has established a very good reputation. As the dean and director of the PPRC, I have personally supervised over 30 Post-graduate and doctoral students and published a number of papers in high impact scientific journals. I am writing to inform you that our center and I myself, as the dean and director of the center, were absolutely unaware of what Ahmad Salar Elahi has been up to. We have in no way received any alerting email about his paper submission or/and acceptance of his submitted articles later. Only during the past few days did we learn that he had been involved in the fake reviews and violation of peer review process. We have taken severe disciplinary action against him as his act of plagiarism and fraud, in no way, can be tolerated in our center. Salar Elhai has been one of our staff over the past few years. His manipulation of the peer-review process has blackened the reputation of our institute. As far as we learned from “Retraction Watch” report, the authorship lists were changed and my name was added later. Although, we do not know yet his ultimate motivation for abusing our trust, our guess is that he had intention of misusing our spotless scientific reputation. He, as the corresponding author of the articles, should have had our approval beforehand. The presence of our names in the articles is an unfortunate accident for us and shows his organized crime.

We would like to hereby mention that we have had absolutely no involvement in any of his unlawful activities and wrongdoings. We refuse to accept any responsibility for his illegal acts. As we are in the process of dealing with his frauds, we would be grateful if you could provide us with any more details in this regard.

We would appreciate it if you could officially publish this note and inform your readers of our letter.

  
With Best Regards  
Mahmoud Ghorannevis

**Dean and Director**  
**Plasma Physics Research Center**  
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