Ensuring Good Scientific Practice

**Commission on ensuring good scientific practice at WHU: Reprimand for Professor Ernst for joint responsibility as co-author – not, however, a gross negligence of supervisory responsibilities**

The commission for ensuring good scientific practice at WHU has now completed its proceedings, during which the question was whether Professor Ernst was to be charged with scientific misconduct. Professor Ernst could not be reprimanded for the following circumstances:

* Joint responsibility and scientific misconduct through active participation in or joint knowledge of the misconduct of Dr. Lichtenthaler in his postdoctoral thesis
* A gross negligence of supervisory responsibilities with regards to Dr. Lichtenthaler or associates of his professorship

The committee does, however, find fault with Professor Ernst as a co-author with Dr. Lichtenthaler, having not sufficiently reviewed his work for mistakes, and the commission judges this behavior as severe scientific misconduct. According to the commission’s assessment, by neglecting this duty Professor Ernst bears shared responsibility for the errors occurring in the joint publication. Professor Markus Rudolf, the Rector at WHU, reprimanded this behavior. Additionally, Professor Ernst was charged to do everything within his power to review publications for obvious and serious mistakes in a conscientious manner so as to avoid retractions in the future.