



TRANSLATED FOR RETRACTION
WATCH BY ONE HOUR TRANSLATION

Helsinki 21.12.2011
Journal Nr 1160/58/2010
Reference Notification on infringement of good scientific practice

DECISION REGARDING THE NOTIFICATION ON INFRINGEMENT OF GOOD SCIENTIFIC PRACTICE ON 16TH JULY 2010

On 16th July, PhD Juha-Pekka Mattila has sent an email to Professor Esa Korpi which suggests that Professor Paavo Kinnunen is guilty of infringement of good scientific practice. In his e-mail on 15th October 2010, Mattila has confirmed that the e-mail was intended as a notification regarding a suspicion on an infringement of good scientific practice. With her email on 28th October 2010, PhD Karen Sabatini notified that she agrees with the content of Mattila's notification.

On 28th October 2010, University of Helsinki Chancellor's Office requested Professor Paavo Kinnunen for an answer to Mattila's notification. The answer from Professor Kinnunen arrived on 26th November 2010. Resulting from this, a further clarification on the subject was requested from PhD Karen Sabatini and PhD Yegor Domanov. The further clarifications from Sabatini and Domanov arrived on 16th December 2010 and on 20th December 2010.

On 16th February 2011, the Chancellor decided that it was necessary to conduct a pre-investigation. The pre-investigators were the Research Director of Neuroscience Center, Professor Heikki Rauvala from the University of Helsinki and Academy Professor Mart Saarma from the University of Helsinki. The pre-investigators submitted their statements to the Chancellor on 3rd May 2011. The conclusion of the pre-investigation stated that the suspicion of an infringement of good scientific practice based on the material presented cannot be ruled out. The pre-investigators suggested conducting an ethical investigation.

The Professor Paavo Kinnunen, PhD Juha-Pekka Mattila and PhD Sabatini were given an opportunity to respond to the statement of the pre-investigators. The first two submitted their answers to the Chancellor. The answer from Professor Paavo Kinnunen arrived at the Chancellor's Office on 3rd May 2011 and the answer from PhD Juha-Pekka Mattila on 3rd May 2011.

On the basis of the pre-investigation and the statements regarding it, the Chancellor set a research integrity investigation committee (hereinafter referred to as the investigation committee) to investigate the referred suspicion of an infringement of good scientific practice. MD. PhD., Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Dan Lindholm from the University of Helsinki acted as the head of the investigation committee.

Other members of the committee were Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Medicine, Taina Pihlajaniemi from the University of Oulu and Professor of Constitutional Law, Liisa Nieminen from the University of Helsinki. LL.M. Sandra Liede from the University of Helsinki acted as a committee secretary.

UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI

Chancellor, P.O. Box 3 (Yliopistonkatu 2), FI-00014 University of Helsinki
Telephone +358 9 191 22206, fax +358 9 191 22960, kansleri@helsinki.fi

The investigation committee's report was finished on 24th October 2011 (Appendix 1). Prof. Paavo Kinnunen and PhD Juha-Pekka Mattila were given an opportunity to respond to the report. The answer from Mattila arrived at the Chancellor's Office on 17th November 2011 and the answer from Kinnunen on 24th November 2011.

This case is a dispute concerning PhD Karen Sabatini's contribution to the article published in the journal *Soft Matter* (Formation of lipid/peptide tubules by IAPP and temporin B on supported lipid membranes, *Soft Matter* 2011; hereinafter referred to as "the article"), which is based on the research conducted by the research group led by Prof.

Paavo Kinnunen. Mattila, Sabatini and Domanov regard Sabatini's contribution as significant enough to believe that her name should have been included as one of the authors in the publication. However, in all of his statements Professor Kinnunen regards Sabatini's contribution as minor and routine and does not believe there are any bases for including her as one of the authors.

According to the section 24 of the ordinance that came into effect on 1st January 2010, the Chancellor leads investigations of suspicions regarding infringements of good scientific practice.

Arguments

The Finnish Advisory Board on Research Integrity put together a guideline concerning responsible conduct of research and the procedures for handling allegations of misconduct (original title 'Hyvä tieteellinen käytäntö ja sen loukkausten käsittelyminen', 2002) in which the infringements of good scientific practice are defined by dividing into two categories: Disregard for the responsible conduct of research and Research misconduct. Disregard for the responsible conduct of research refers to gross negligence and recklessness, in particular in the conduct of the research. Denigrating the role of other researchers in publication is referred as an example of disregard for the good scientific practice.

As regards to the alleged negligence, the investigation committee states that there are disputes particularly concerning the significance of PhD Karen Sabatini's contribution to the research work that lead to the publication. Investigation committee notes that a part of the issue is the fact that the status, rights, share of the authorship, responsibilities and obligations as well as the questions concerning the preservation of the research results were not unambiguously defined and documented before starting the research or recruiting scientists to the group in a manner acceptable to all parties.

On the basis of the presented material and the recommendation by ICMJE (International Committee of Medical Journal Editors) who bind the journal *Soft Matter*, the investigation committee regards Sabatini's contribution to the article as insofar significant that she should have been considered as one of the authors mentioned in the script. Hence the investigation committee notes that Sabatini's contribution has been significant enough for them to have their name included as one of the authors.

In their report the investigation committee suggests that PhD Karen Sabatini should be added as one of the authors. The investigation committee assumes that Professor Kinnunen does not object this. The investigation committee recommends that Kinnunen contacts the publisher and asks them to publish an "Erratum" in order to correct the issue.

In his response to the investigation committee's report on 24th November 2011, Professor Paavo Kinnunen has clearly stated his objection for adding PhD Karen Sabatini as one of the authors of the article. However, Kinnunen did not present any significant information on the matter that was not known during the preparation of the investigation committee's report. Thus, he gave no reason for the investigation committee to take a different approach to this issue.

The investigation committee has evaluated the matter in detail, taking into account the investigation and the code of conduct concerning the matter. None of the responses given to the final report of the investigation committee present any significant new information that would give a reason to take a different approach to this issue. Hence, on the basis of the investigation committee's report, it is justified to determine that PhD Karen Sabatini's contribution that led to the publication of this research has been significant enough for her to be mentioned as one of the authors of this article.

The investigation committee also suggests that the investigation report should be brought to the attention of Esa Korpi, the leader of the Institute of Biomedicine in the University of Helsinki, who first received the suspicion regarding infringement of good scientific practice. Furthermore, the investigation committee suggests that the final report of the investigation shall be sent to Tuula Teeri, the President of Aalto University, who is Kinnunen's current employer and to the financial sponsors of the study but this should follow the code of conduct of The Finnish Advisory Board on Research Integrity.

Decision

In accordance with the criteria above and with the investigation committee's final report, I believe that Paavo Kinnunen is guilty of disregard for good scientific practice manifested as underrating the contribution of other scientist by excluding PhD Karen Sabatini from the authors of the article "Formation of lipid/peptide tubules by IAPP and teinporin B on supported lipid membranes" published in 2011 in the journal *Soft Matter*.

According to the code of conduct by the Finnish Advisory Board on Research Integrity, this decision, the investigation committee's final report on the matter, the statement of the pre-investigators as well as the responses received will be sent to notify the Finnish Advisory Board on Research Integrity.

I shall refer the matter to the Rector of the University of Helsinki for necessary follow-up procedures.

The appeal: This decision cannot be appealed (Administrative Judicial Procedure Act, Section 5).

More information: Chancellor's Secretary Sakari Melander, tel. +358 9191 22207

Chancellor Ilkka Niiniluoto

Chancellor's Secretary



kari