

Moore,Christina S

From: McFadden, Douglas Grant
Sent: Wednesday, September 07, 2016 10:36 AM
To: Scott,Edward W; Scian,Michael P
Cc: Cooke,Irene; Ormerod,Brandi K; Moore,Christina S
Subject: Re: Please respond - Request for Skype Interview - CONFIDENTIAL (Reminder)

I echo Ed: I am not sure what we will learn from his denial of involvement in the actual FACS data plot manipulation. The immediate evidentiary train that led to this figure manipulation is broken, and I think all our report can do is to state that we cannot rule out either of them.

Grant

MCFADDEN,GRANT
Professor, Dept. Molecular Genetics & Microbiology,
College of Medicine,
University of Florida,
1200 Newell Drive,
ARB Rm R4-295,
PO Box 100266
Gainesville, FL 32610

TEL: 352-273-6852
Cell: 352-672-2263
FAX: 352-273-6849
Email: grantmcf@ufl.edu

From: Scott,Edward W
Sent: Wednesday, September 7, 2016 10:23 AM
To: Scian,Michael P
Cc: Cooke,Irene; Ormerod,Brandi K; McFadden, Douglas Grant; Moore,Christina S
Subject: Re: Please respond - Request for Skype Interview - CONFIDENTIAL (Reminder)

Hi All,

I just reread Dr Rao's emails from before. He was pretty clear that he did not do the DC experiments. However, the issue is who fraudulently created the new figure via photoshop or some other image editing program. We can send him more pointed email questions, but I would obviously prefer to see his reactions and demeanor via Skype. I am still not sure this will make much of a difference in our decisions. Both will deny, yet both had opportunity and motive. Both kept poor records or have incomplete records. The fact that Rao would not reply clearly until after he had a chance to see his lab book with its lack of record could also be seen as a flag.

I say fine, no Skype and we just weigh the evidence and attitudes before us. There is no real smoking gun here, because the evidence trail is too thin. Clearly fraud occurred. At this point we can only identify who had motive and opportunity. The fact that a second figure made by Dr Rao in the paper also had duplications/errors does not speak well of his rigor either.

I vote we have a meeting next week early and start drafting our findings.

Ed

From: Cooke, Irene
Sent: Tuesday, September 06, 2016 8:18 PM
To: Ormerod, Brandi K; McFadden, Douglas Grant; Scott, Edward W
Cc: Scian, Michael P; Moore, Christina S
Subject: FW: Please respond - Request for Skype Interview - CONFIDENTIAL (Reminder)

Dear members,
Please see Dr. Rao's response below and let me know how I should respond to him.
Thank you,
Irene

From: Jayandharan Giridhara Rao [<mailto:jayrao@iitk.ac.in>]
Sent: Tuesday, September 06, 2016 7:05 PM
To: Cooke, Irene
Cc: Moore, Christina S
Subject: Re: Please respond - Request for Skype Interview - CONFIDENTIAL (Reminder)
Importance: High

Dear Dr Cooke,
I will be happy to communicate with the new committee by email.
Best Regards
Jayandharan

On Sep 6, 2016, at 11:30 PM, Moore, Christina S <csmoore@ufl.edu> wrote:

Dr. Rao,

Dr. Cooke asked that I follow-up with you to ask that you please respond to her email request below by tomorrow, Wednesday, September 7th. I attempted to call your office and leave a message but was unable.

We want to thank you in advance for your response.

Sincerely,

Chris

Christina S. Moore
Assistant to Dr. Irene Cooke,
Asst. Vice President for Research
and Director of Research Compliance
Division of Research Compliance
University of Florida | Office of Research
PO Box 115500 | 460 Grinter Hall, Gainesville, FL 32611
Phone: (352) 392-9174 | Email: csmoore@ufl.edu
Website: <http://research.ufl.edu/faculty-and-staff/research-compliance.html>

From: Cooke, Irene
Sent: Wednesday, August 31, 2016 9:04 AM
To: Jayandharan Giridhara Rao
Cc: Moore, Christina S; Scian, Michael P
Subject: Please respond - Request for Skype Interview - CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Dr. Rao,

The allegation that was brought forward is now being reviewed by an Investigation Committee (3 faculty with scientific expertise in the appropriate areas). The Committee has met and interviewed the Respondent, Dr. Aslanidi, and the Complainants, Drs. Srivastava and Herzog, but are unable to distinguish your role and responsibility from Dr. Aslanidi's with respect to figure 3A in the PNAS paper. They feel that there are only 2 possibilities for the manipulation of figure 3A – either you or Dr. Aslanidi. Thus, the Committee would like to interview you via skype to clarify concerns and see if they can determine who was responsible for the manipulation.

Would be willing to speak with them? Please let me know at your earliest convenience but no later than September 7, 2016.

Sincerely,
Irene Cooke

Irene Cooke, DVM, PhD
Assistant Vice President for Research and Director of Research Compliance
460 Grinter Hall, PO Box 115500
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611-5500

Phone: (352) 392-9174.