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SAINT LOUIS
UNIVERSITY

Office of the Vice President, Research

September 2, 2015

Emilie Marcus, PhD
Editor, *Cell*
Cell Press
600 Technology Square, STE 5
Cambridge, MA 02139

Re: Allegations of research misconduct against Dorota Skowrya, PhD

Dear Dr. Marcus:

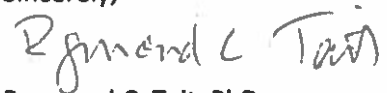
I am writing to you in your capacity as Editor of the journal, *Cell*. In that capacity, you should know that allegations of research misconduct were made against Dorota Skowrya, PhD, an author of an article that appeared in your journal:

Babbitt, S.E., Kiss, A., Deffenbaugh, A.E., Chang, Y.-H., Bailly, E., Erdjument-Bromage, H., Tempst, P., Buranda, T., Sklar, L.A., Baumler, J., Gogol, E., & Skowrya, D. ATP Hydrolysis-Dependent Disassembly of the 26S Proteasome Is Part of the Catalytic Cycle. *Cell*/121:553-565, May 20, 2005; doi: 10.1016/j.cell.2005.03.028.

Those allegations, involving the possible manipulation of Western blot images, have been investigated by a committee of scientists at Saint Louis University. While the committee found that Dr. Skowrya did engage in image manipulation as alleged, a practice that they deemed consistent with research misconduct, they also concluded that the changes made to the images were "cosmetic" in nature and neither affected the interpretation of the data nor the conclusions drawn from the data. In consideration of these findings, the committee recommended that the University Research Integrity Officer (RIO) communicate their findings to the journal(s) in question. As the RIO, I am sending this letter to you in order comply with that recommendation.

As you can see, I also am copying Dr. Skowrya on this communication. If there is additional information that you require or further steps that you deem necessary, please feel free to communicate with me (taitrc@slu.edu) or directly with Dr. Skowrya (skowyrad@slu.edu). As she cooperated fully with the investigation, I believe that you can anticipate similar levels of cooperation in regard to any further action(s) that you might require of her.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Raymond C. Tait". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R'.

Raymond C. Tait, PhD
Vice President, Research
Research Integrity Officer
Saint Louis University

Cc: Dorota Skowrya, PhD