

March 4, 2018

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Assistant Managing Editor  
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American Association for Cancer Research  
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Dear Mr. Rosenberg,

I am in receipt of your email stating that AACR will retract Pulukuri SMK, Rao JS. *Small interfering RNA-directed reversal of urokinase plasminogen activator demethylation inhibits prostate tumor growth and metastasis*. Cancer Res 2007;67:6637–46.

I am surprised and disappointed by your decision. I last responded to your concerns on Oct. 10, 2016. I did not receive a response from you or anyone else at AACR until your email on Feb. 28, 2018, approximately 16 months later. In addition, based on your email, it appears that your internal reviewers did not look at any data, but merely compared high contrast images.

As you are fully aware, I have been involved in a wrongful termination lawsuit against the University of Illinois since 2013. I will reiterate that I have not had access to my lab or data and files since that time. We provided the notebooks and discs relevant to these two Pulukuri manuscripts to Dr. Mark Grabiner, the University of Illinois' Research Integrity Officer in Oct. 2012. Of note, Dr. Grabiner admitted in his 2016 deposition that he did not provide all of the relevant experimental data to the investigation panel. If he had done so, then the panel would have seen that the images came from different animals. I further explained this in detail in my Oct. 10, 2016 correspondence to you, which is attached for your reference.

As you also know, I am not the first author or the one who conducted the experiments for this article. However, based on the comments from the first author, which I submitted to you on Jan. 9, 2016, I have no reason to question the soundness of the data, as there would have been no point in duplicating any of these images.

Given that no one from AACR has communicated with me since 2016, and the timing of your decision coinciding with a critical time in my lawsuit against the University, it seems likely that AACR is under pressure from the University to take this action.

To be clear, I do **not** consent to this retraction, and I ask that you publish this letter along with your retraction.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Jasti S. Rao