



26 June 2019

**STRICTLY PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL**

Ms Claire Francis  
Sent by email to

Dear Ms Francis

**Re: Allegations of research misconduct. Outcome of initial investigation**

Further to your concerns about potential research misconduct on the part of Professor Tavassoli that were brought to the attention of King's College London on 3 January 2019, I am writing to inform you that the initial investigation stage has now concluded.

In line with our [\*Procedure for investigating and resolving allegations of research misconduct\*](#), I convened a small panel to clarify the allegation(s) (where necessary), determine whether the allegations had been made in good faith, whether a *prima facie* case of misconduct had been established, and the level of its seriousness. The Panel assessed each allegation in turn, taking into account the evidence provided by the respondent for each. The panel found that there was substance to each allegation but, on the part of the respondent, there was no intention to deceive. Therefore, the panel concluded that in each instance its findings constituted poor research practice short of misconduct. No further action will be taken. The matter will now be referred to the Faculty to take forward the Panel's recommendations for additional training.

The Panel noted that the respondent took appropriate steps once alerted to the allegations, by informing co-authors (where relevant) and issuing a notice of correction to the journal *Cell Cycle*. I have taken the additional step of informing the institution of the last author on the *Journal of Virology* paper.

Thank you for taking the time to bring your concerns to our attention and for treating this matter with discretion and confidentiality.

I would be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt of this letter to Dr Natasha Awais-Dean, Research Integrity Manager . If you have any queries relating to this matter or the operation of the procedure, please contact Dr Awais-Dean in the first instance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "I. Tebbett".

Dr Ian Tebbett  
Senior Vice President (Operations)