

Email from V'yacheslav Lehen'kyi

Thank you for your e-mail, even if it brings me more pain than I already have because of this review.

Actually, I don't understand why you are only the second person who asks me about it. I will never understand why the invited Editor of Cell Calcium told me not to contact John Stewart directly. I did try to contact him by the phone on the 10th of May 2019 as soon as I learned that we are suspected on the plagiarism, however I didn't reach him. And after that, they told me just to wait, and I waited, upset and depressed since then. You can imagine how hard is to build a carrier when you are abroad especially in such a country like France, and now my reputation is stained because of this review "retracted". I'm only 43 years old, I even don't know whether this stain "retracted" will stay on the PubMed till my end. I will never understand J Cancer which kept the article of John Stewart several months (actually almost one year) after I have accepted it for publication as a reviewer (January 2019 it seems) due to the proper revision the author has made. And Cell Calcium I don't understand as well, because I have passed in the end of the April 2019, three times (!) their plagiarism check for my review and they confirmed me: I'm clean !

I wish I could beg John Stewart's pardon, at least that he knows that I appreciate very much his works, and what happened was not an intentional theft of me, though I don't deny my responsibility of it. Indeed, I was the reviewer of his review in October 2018-February 2019 in J Cancer. It was an excellent review, extremely complete, I was really proud of being its reviewer. I did print it out and make my french students read it. I could never imagine myself that it could turn in such an awful story. I have two PhD students in my team, one postdoc, a couple of Master students, almost all of them are in my office. Please note: I'm the only one to blame in this story. And what is really severe, I spent more than 3 weeks of 100% of my time on writing it by myself, and only some parts I asked my students to help me with. Aline did all the figures, Aurélien did all the references and the revision with me. It's not a copy-and-paste review of the John Stewart's work as he might probably think.

I'm really sorry, even if my "sorry" doesn't make any sense anymore. What is really important for me that John Stewart has found justice for him and now, in one year (!) he has finally his review published and visible on the PubMed. You ask me whether my colleagues agree with the retraction? A head of the Laboratory, Prof Natalia Prevarskaya, she didn't see the review until the problem arised, and my students, we don't talk anymore about it since then because we want to forget this worst nightmare story.

Science is not a "bargain place", so it's better to say: "I'm sorry, I'm guilty" and let the justice go than to plead over the months feeling myself guilty somewhere anyway. Believe me or not, but working for over 15 years on the same TRPV6 channel, as well as John Stewart did (I guess), will make you think in the same way. If I have to write another review on the TRPV6 tomorrow, I will build it in the same way, the same

chapters, the same flow of thoughts, that's the way I think about it (TRPV6 channel). Go to the cbioportal.org and paste TRPV6 into the query line, you will obtain in 3 sec what I have pasted you below. All the data at a glance, all cancers. Someone would consider it as data mining, I consider it just as publicly/freely available database, and so on...

My lab colleague Charlotte has offered me a cup for this Christmas, on the orange cup it's written in a big scale: "Shit happens". That is exactly my case.

I wish I had more courage to write to John Stewart to beg his pardon instead of continuously suffering from it. A huge overload at work always saves me from doing that. Anyway, I was almost everytime the reviewer of his papers and unlike some of reviewers I always gave him a chance to publish. I know it by myself since I am working in translation science too, how difficult it is to publish any pharmacological tool, especially of such importance, as against TRPV6 channel.

So, I don't know what kind of report you are going to make on me, but I would highly acknowledge if you could not hurt me, I have had enough of it, I swear.