UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO
EASTERN DIVISION

CARLO M. CROCE	:	
	:	**Case No. 2:17-cv-00338**
Plaintiff,	:	
	:	**Judge James L. Graham**
vs.	:	
	:	**Magistrate Judge Preston Deavers**
DAVID A. SANDERS	:	
	:	
Defendant.	:	

Exhibit 14 to Defendant's Appendix in Support of Motion for Summary Judgment – 12/4/2012 Gerry Melina Email to Carlo Croce

DESIGNATED AS CONFIDENTIAL BY PLAINTIFF

FILED UNDER SEAL

From: "Croce, Carlo M" <MAILER-DAEMON>
Subject: FW: Reply to NAR
To: Groden, Joanna
Date: 05/06/2013 12:58:38 -0400

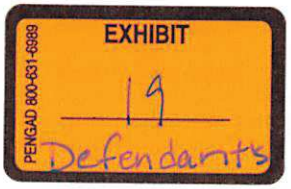
From: "Melino, Gerry (Prof.)" <gm89@leicester.ac.uk>
Date: Tue, 4 Dec 2012 04:28:32 -0500
To: Carlo Croce <carlo.croce@osumc.edu>
Subject: Re: Reply to NAR

Carlo
Assolutamente in linea con quello che penso io. L'anonimo si chiama CLARE FRANCIS, e scrive a Cell Death Differ ogni 2-3 settimane facendoci perdere tantissimo tempo. Tempesta di emails anonime anche Oncogene (Doug Green), Nature Genetics, Development, PNAS ed altri giornali. Ho fatto chiedere all'ufficio editorial di Nature Publishing Group cosa fare legalmente.
Ti allego una lettera importante, vedi sotto, che puoi trovare on te web.
Abbracci ed a presto.
G

Dear "Clare Francis$B!/(B

I am writing to you on behalf of John Wiley & Sons, Inc. Over the last few months, the editors of a number of journals published by us have received numerous e-mails from you alerting them to the possibility of dual publication and other related ethics violations. Wiley and its editors treat ethical issues with the utmost seriousness, and to date, your allegations have been investigated to the extent that the information and resources cited in your e-mails were available. These investigations have not so far disclosed any ethical misconduct on the part of authors that would require retraction of published articles. In a number of cases editors haveexpended substantial resources and determined that no problem exists. In others, it has been established that there is some overlap with a previously published article, but that the authors acted in good faith according to the then-prevailing standards at time of writing. In the later cases, where appropriate, corrective action has been taken.

It is highly unusual in STM publishing to receive anonymous ethics complaints.**When accusing another scientist of acting in an unethical manner, the accuser isexpected to do so openly, so that the community can evaluate not only the substance of the accusations, but the potential bias of the accuser.** Wehave repeatedly asked you to identify yourself, but youhave not complied with our requests. Accordingly, I am writing to let you know that going forward,while we will certainly investigate those allegations in which you identifyyourself and your affiliation, we can not guarantee that all anonymous allegations sent to us will be investigated. In addition, we ask that you make future allegations only after you have conducted reasonable due diligence to confirm



actual ethical violations.

Roy S. Kaufman
Legal Director, Wiley-Blackwell
John Wiley & Sons, Inc.
111 River Street
Hoboken, NJ 07030-5774
http://www.wiley.com
rkaufman@wiley.com
(201) 748-6918 (voice)
(201) 748-6500 (fax)

From: <Croce>, Carlo Croce <Carlo.Croce@osumc.edu>
Date: Monday 3 December 2012 23:30
To: "gm89@leicester.ac.uk" <gm89@leicester.ac.uk>
Subject: FW: Reply to NAR

Please find my response to a letter I received from the Editor of NAR.
Ciao,
Carlo

From: Carlo Croce <carlo.croce@osumc.edu>
Date: Mon, 3 Dec 2012 16:01:20 -0500
To: "foxnar@soton.ac.uk" <foxnar@soton.ac.uk>
Subject: FW: Reply to NAR

Dear Dr. Fox,
Please find the response to your enquiry concerning our paper published in NAR.
I would like, however, to make some comments I hope you will find useful.
There is an anonimous individual who is sending accusations concerning many scientists and a very large number of papers published in many journals. Just a very cursory examination of such accusations reveals that this person does not have a good grasp of how figures are assembled.Nevertheless these accusations result in a significant loss of time of editors and scientists. Clearly we are dealing with a mentally deranged person who should be recovered in a mental institution.
I suggest Editors should request the authorities, FBI in USA and comparable organization in UK to do an investigation.
Sincerely,
Carlo M. Croce

From: Jean-Jacques Michaille <Jean-Jacques.Michaille@u-bourgogne.fr>
Date: Mon, 3 Dec 2012 15:31:22 -0500
To: Carlo Croce <carlo.croce@osumc.edu>
Subject: Reply to NAR

Dear Prof. Croce,

Please find hereafter the answer I propose to send to NAR, along with 11 attached files to be sent along.

Please let me know if you wish some changes.

Jean-Jacques

Dear Professor Keith R. Fox,

We have just received you e-mail regarding our paper:

?GAM/ZFp/ZNF512B is central to a gene sensor circuitry involving cell-cycle regulators, TGFSB&B(B effectors, Drosha and microRNAs with opposite oncogenic potentials ? published in Nucleic Acids Res. (2010) 38 (21): 7673-88. doi: 10.1093/nar/gkq637.

First of all, we would like to thank you for letting us know about these anonymous comments. We truly appreciate your concerns and responsibility.

Please find hereafter our reply to these comments. We are attaching the documents that support this reply, e.g., the original panels (2A, 2B, 2C and 5D) previously submitted included in the mounted figures plus the original scan files in .tif format, as well as a word file presenting a part of our former reply to Referee 1, at the time of resubmitting the manuscript.

Reply :

1)- Figure 2A.Pan-Ras panel. How come they manage to truncate the right end of the band in the right lane?
Alpha tubulin panel. How come they manage to truncate the left end of the band in the left lane?
Both bands are saturated. How come the band in the left lane is so much longer?

-When mounting the figures into the different panels, we ? managed ? to cut the different scans at the same size in order to have each panel looking as regular as possible.

-We are attaching theoriginal scan of the Ras blot (Ras_Fig2A_Original scan) along with the .tif file of panel 2A, subsequently used to build Fig. 2. The blots shown in Panel 2Acorrespond to the first and second lanes of the original scan. It is thus obvious that the cut was done $B!^(B at the exact edge of the right lane, with no information being either added or taken out (compare with the file ? Panel 2A_revised version ?).

-Concerning the aTub, we are also attaching the original scan (aTub_Fig2A_Original scan) : again, the cut was done $B!^(B at the exact edge of the left lane, with no informationbeing either added or taken out (compare with the file ? Panel 2A_revised version ?).

-And yes, the exposure was a little high, but this is most often the case for aTub, for the protein is abundant enough.

-The first band happened to be longer most probable from the fact that it corresponds to the first lane of the gel. Indeed, the first and last lanes of gels often give this kind of wider band.

2)- Figure 2B. Alpha tubulin panel. The mist around the band in the right lane is only slightly different from the mist around the band in the middle lane.

-We are also attaching the original scan of the aTub blot (aTub_Fig2B_Original scan) along with the .tif file of panel 2B, subsequently used to build Fig. 2. The blots shown in Panel 2B correspond to the first, second and third lanes of the original scan.

It happens that all the ? mist ? (?) on the original scan look pretty much the same.

3)- Figure 2C. Alpha tubulin panel. The bands in the right lane is likely a longer exposure of the band in the middle lane. The way the bands diverge at either end is very similar.

The small bright spotjust above the right end of the band in the middle lane and the "smiley" under where the bands in the middle and right lanes meet are not a coincidence.

-We are attaching theoriginal scan of the aTub blot (aTub_Fig2C_Original scan) along with the .tif file of panel 2C, subsequently used to build Fig. 2.

As you can see, the second and the third lanes are different in their shape, size and intensities.

-We do not really understand the next statement ? The small bright spot just above the right end of the band in the middle lane and the "smiley" under where the bands in the middle and right lanes meet are not a coincidence. ?.

Several bright spots are indeed present on the scan, one of them happening to be located at the end of the middle band.

4)- Figure 5B. I think that the alpha tubulin panel is the same as the alpha tubulin panel in figure 2A. It might be the same experiment, but it is still image reuse, and creating the impression that there were more experiments than there were.

-It is indeed the same. At the time of the first submission, Referee 1 (see the attached word file ? ?Reply to Referee 1_NAR) asked us to split the Drosha ? panel from panel 2A :

I WOULD SUGGEST SPLITTING FIGURE 2 AND MOVING WESTERNBLOT FOR DROSHA TO FIGURE 5 FOR CONSISTENCY.

Our answer was :

(a) WE AGREE. **PANEL A OF FIG. 2 HAS BEEN CUT AND THE STRIPS SHOWING DROSHA AND THE CONTROL ATUB ARE NOW PRESENTED IN PANEL B OF FIG. 5**.

Accordingly, when we split this figure, we wrote in the **Legend to the new (final) version of Fig. 5 (Line 5)**:

THE BLOTS IN B WERE FROM THE SAME EXPERIMENT AS THE BLOTS OF FIGURE 2A

-Obviously meaning that **the very same aTub blot is presented in both fig. 2A and Fig. 5B**.

-To make things clearer, we are also attaching the first submitted version of panel 2A (Panel 2A_First submission) to be compared with the second (published) version (Panel 2A_revised version) where Drosha has been taken out.

-The LAST TWO LANES of the original panel A (Drosha plus THE VERY SAME aTub lane) have then be included as panel 5B in Fig. 5, as clearly stated in the legend to Fig. 5 (line 5).

5)- Figure 5D. Alpha tubulin panel. I suspect that the band in the right lane is a longer exposure of the band in the left lane.

- We are attaching the original scan of the aTub blot (aTub_Fig5D_Original scan) along with the .tif file of Panel 5D, subsequently used to build Fig. 5.

- Lanes 1 and 2 of panel 5D correspond to lanes 2 and 3 of the original scan, respectively. As you can see, they are different, not copies of each other.

We hope that this files and comments will come as an evidence of our good faith.

We also hope the ? anonymous whistle-blower ?, that we thank very much for sparingsome of his/her precious time tentatively to help us to improve our manuscript, will be satisfied. If not, he should feel welcome to recontact us.

Sincerely,

Carlo Croce and Jean-Jacques Michaille

Dear Drs Michaille and Croce,

I am writing to you in my role of Senior Executive Editor of *Nucleic Acids Research* regarding an article that you published in our journal in 2010:

GAM/ZFp/ZNF512B is central to a gene sensor circuitry involving cell-cycle regulators, TGF$B&B(B effectors, Drosha and microRNAs with opposite oncogenic potentials
Esmerina Tili, Jean-Jacques Michaille, Chang-Gong Liu, Hansjuerg Alder, Cristian Taccioli, Stefano Volinia, George A. Calin and Carlo M. Croce
Nucleic Acids Res. (2010) 38 (21): 7673-88. doi: 10.1093/nar/gkq637

We have recently been contacted by a reader and whistle blower, regarding some possible irregularities in the figures of your article, as described below.

As editors, we must follow strict ethics guidelines and investigate all claims of image manipulation. This does not necessarily indicate that we support the allegations but we are duty bound to bring such matters to the authors' attention. Therefore, please may I ask you to inspect the published figures and comment on their authenticity at your earliest convenience.

This is what the anonymous "whistle-blower" said:

- Figure 2A.Pan-Ras panel. How come they manage to truncate the right end of the band in the right lane?
  Alpha tubulin panel. How come they manage to truncate the left end of the band in the left lane?
  Both bands are saturated. How come the band in the left lane is so much longer?
- Figure 2B. Alpha tubulin panel. The mist around the band in the right lane is only slightly diferent from the mist around the band in the middle lane.
- Figure 2C. Alpha tubulin panel. The bands in the right lane is likely a longer exposure of the band in the middle lane.The way the bands diverge at either end is very similar.
  The small bright spot just above the right end of the band in the middle lane and the "smiley" under where the bands in the middle and right lanes meet are not a coincidence.
- Figure 5B. I think that the alpha tubulin panel is the same as the alpha tubulin panel in figure 2A. It might be the same experiment, but it is still image reuse, and creating the impression that there were more experiments than there were.
- Figure 5D. Alpha tubulin panel. I suspect that the band in the right lane is a longer exposure of the band in the left lane.

Yours sincerely

Keith Fox

Professor Keith R. Fox

Senior Executive Editor, Nucleic Acids Research
Centre for Biological Sciences
Life Sciences Building 85
University of Southampton
Southampton SO17 1BJ, UK
tel. +44 23 8059 4374
email foxnar@soton.ac.uk