

Vue, Shelby

From: noreply@salesforce.com on behalf of plosone <plosone@plos.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2020 5:15 AM
To: hkoul@lsuhsc.edu
Cc: Lakin, Alison
Subject: RE: URGENT RESPONSE REQUIRED - PLOS ONE: Editorial decision for doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0044174

Dear Dr. Koul,

Thank you for your quick response to our email, and thank you for your clarification regarding the inquiry and investigation carried out by the institutes. We have been in contact with Research Integrity officials from both the University of Colorado and Shreveport. They have indicated that Shreveport has carried out an initial inquiry which was then followed up by an investigation by the University of Colorado. Both institutes have agreed to the wording in the notice regarding a joint investigation into the concerns. However, we have updated the wording of the notice as you suggested, so that it now reads: "*The University of Colorado and the Louisiana State University Shreveport jointly investigated concerns regarding Figure 3B, but were unable to clarify the issues regarding this figure and how the experiment was conducted based on available laboratory records*"

In addition, following your email we have updated the data availability statement so that it now reads: "*The authors have provided underlying data that verified some, but not all of the bands presented in figure 3B. The underlying data for the remaining bands are no longer available. The corresponding author said that the underlying data are no longer available because the authors changed institutions.*"

Finally, in your email you mention that the investigating committee determined that there was no research misconduct but rather that research errors were made. We would like to clarify that the decision to retract the article is based on the concerns about the validity and the reliability of the study as published, irrespective of whether the concerns are the result of misconduct or honest error. Based on our assessment, these are sufficiently serious in nature such that *PLOS ONE* can no longer stand behind the validity of the findings described in the article. This decision only concerns the reliability of the findings in light of the concerns that have been raised. The journal does not adjudicate on issues regarding potential misconduct, and no such conclusion should be implied.

We have now updated the author statement to indicate that you agree with the decision to retract the article.

Best regards,
Maria

Maria Zalm, Ph.D
Senior Editor Publication Ethics

PLOS | plosone@plos.org
Empowering researchers to transform science
Carlyle House, Carlyle Road, Cambridge CB4 3DN | United Kingdom

California (U.S.) corporation #C2354500, based in San Francisco

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Case Number: 03431667

ref:_00DU0Ifis,_500U0CU81X:ref

----- Original Message -----

From: Koul, Hari K. [hkoul@lsuhsc.edu]

Sent: 5/20/2020 8:01 PM

To: plosone@plos.org

Cc: alison.lakin@ucdenver.edu

Subject: RE: URGENT RESPONSE REQUIRED - PLOS ONE: Editorial decision for doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0044174

Dear Dr Zalm,

Thank you for this detailed e-mail explaining the decision of PLoS One. The research investigation was conducted by the University of Colorado based on inquiry by the LSUHSC-Shreveport. I am not aware of any involvement of Research integrity office or research integrity committee at Shreveport in this research investigation beyond the inquiry phase. Moreover, the investigating committee determined that there was no research misconduct, but research errors were made.

I would request to change the statement to reflect these facts as follows:

“The University of Colorado investigated concerns about Figure 3B but were unable to clarify the issues regarding this figure and how the experiment was conducted based on available laboratory records.”

Or if the investigation was really conducted jointly,

“The University of Colorado and the Louisiana State University Shreveport jointly investigated concerns regarding Figure 3B but were unable to clarify the issues regarding this figure and how the experiment was conducted based on available laboratory records.”

I also request to modify the second sentence and I am ok with leaving out the rest of the sentence and not including the records were not retained by the University of Colorado for concerns of culpability and end the sentence at changed the institutions.

The corresponding author said that the underlying data were not retained because the authors changed institutions.

Thank you for kind consideration.

Finally as I stated before, I am disappointed by the decision to retract this manuscript, but agree in principle with this retraction, if it is mandated by the PLOS one policy that, the underlying data are no longer available.

Sincerely

Hari K Koul

From: noreply@salesforce.com <noreply@salesforce.com> **On Behalf Of** plosone

Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 12:14 PM

To: Koul, Hari K. <hkoul@lsuhsc.edu>

Cc: alison.lakin@ucdenver.edu

Subject: Re: URGENT RESPONSE REQUIRED - PLOS ONE: Editorial decision for doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0044174

Dear Dr. Koul,

Thank you for your response to our editorial decision on your article doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0044174.

We understand that you are disappointed by the editorial decision, and that you would have preferred to correct the article instead. We are aware that the journal has previously discussed a potential correction for your article, and this has been discussed with the Editor-in-Chief and the Deputy-Editor-in-Chief. However, since your previous communications with *PLOS* we have been in contact with the research integrity committees of the University of Colorado and the Louisiana State University Shreveport, and they have informed us that their investigation into your paper has not resolved the outstanding concerns with Figure 3B. As per our editorial policies, we do not consider corrections of unresolved image integrity concerns where the original underlying data are no longer available. In this case, repeat experiment data cannot resolve the concerns which pertain to the integrity of results reported in the original published figure and the integrity with which the figure represented the outcomes of the reported experiments. As such, our decision stands and we are proceeding with the retraction.

You have noted that the statement *“The University of Colorado and the Louisiana State University Shreveport jointly investigated this work and confirmed the concerns about Figure 3B. The institutions were unable to clarify the issues regarding this figure and how the experiment was conducted based on available laboratory records”* appears to be a contradiction. We see how this statement could be misinterpreted, and so we have now updated this paragraph so that it reads: *“The University of Colorado and the Louisiana State University Shreveport jointly investigated this work and confirmed there are concerns regarding Figure 3B. The institutions were unable to clarify the issues regarding this figure and how the experiment was conducted based on available laboratory records.”*

You have mentioned that the notice is incomplete, and that the notice should mention that *“the underlying data remained no longer available, because the investigators had changed the institutions and the University of Colorado did not retain the original records.”* Any aspects to do with culpability are beyond the remit of the journal to adjudicate or investigate, and furthermore do not impact our editorial decision as to the validity and reliability of the published results. We have amended the statement you have suggested so that the data availability statement now reads: *“The authors have provided underlying data that verified some, but not all of the bands presented in figure 3B. The corresponding author said that the underlying data are no longer available because the authors changed institutions; the author expressed that data were left with the University of Colorado.”* Please confirm you are happy with the proposed text, if the sentence requires revisions for accuracy as to your perspective on data being left with the University of Colorado, or if you prefer to end the statement after *“authors changed institutions.”*

Finally, in your responses to our editorial decision, you initially indicate you agree with the editorial decision to retract *“I am dis appointed by the decision to retract this manuscript, but agree in principle with this retraction, as it is mandated by the PLOS one policy”* but in a later email you indicate that we should reconsider our decision to retract. Following this letter which further explains our decision on your article, please clarify whether you agree or disagree with the final decision.

Best regards,
Maria

Maria Zalm, Ph.D
Senior Editor Publication Ethics

PLOS | plosone@plos.org
Empowering researchers to transform science
Carlyle House, Carlyle Road, Cambridge CB4 3DN | United Kingdom

California (U.S.) corporation #C2354500, based in San Francisco

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Case Number: 03431667
ref:_00DU0Ifis._500U0CU81X:ref

----- Original Message -----

From: Koul, Hari K. [hkoul@lsuhsc.edu]
Sent: 5/19/2020 7:48 PM
To: plosone@plos.org
Cc: alison.lakin@ucdenver.edu
Subject: FW: Re: Your PLOS ONE article ref:_00DU0Ifis._500U0CU81X:ref

Dear Dr Zalam

I reviewed my previous correspondence with the PLoS One editors and noted that we were assured on a correction notification and not a retraction.

I am forwarding you the entire e-mail communication with PLoS One editorial team members who assured us that ,” we will be able to able to proceed with a correction on this manuscript”

As such I request you to, “ review of the decision to retract the article”.

Sincerely

Hari K Koul

From: noreply@salesforce.com <noreply@salesforce.com> **On Behalf Of** plosone
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2019 11:57 AM
To: Koul, Hari K. <hkoul@lsuhsc.edu>
Subject: Re: Re: Your PLOS ONE article ref:_00DU0Ifis._500U0CU81X:ref

Dear Dr. Koul,

Thank you for your response. Once Dr. Clancy has an opportunity to review these materials, we will follow up with more information about the next steps.

Thank you for your patience. Please let me know if you have any questions in the meantime.

Kind regards,

PLOS | OPEN FOR DISCOVERY
| Senior Publications Assistant, PLOS ONE
1160 Battery Street, Suite 225, San Francisco, CA 94111

Case Number: 03431667
ref:_00DU0Ifis._500U0CU81X:ref

----- Original Message -----

From: Koul, Hari K. [hkoul@lsuhsc.edu]
Sent: 10/15/2019 5:44 AM
To: plosone@plos.org
Subject: Re: Your PLOS ONE article ref:_00DU0Ifis._500U0CU81X:ref

Hi Dr Clancy,

Thank you for your the message. I have updated figure 3 as suggested, for your review.

2. Please find attached, herewith, revised figure 3 and updated figure legend as required.

3. The original underlying data for this manuscript are no longer available.

Please let me know if there is anything else we need to do.

Many thanks for kind consideration.

Hari K Koul, MSc. PhD, FACN, FASN

Professor,

Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

LSU Health Sciences Center-Shreveport-LA-USA

Phone: 318-675-8770; Fax: 318-675-5180

Email: hkoul@lsuhsc.edu

From: noreply@salesforce.com <noreply@salesforce.com> on behalf of plosone <plosone@plos.org>

Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2019 3:27 PM

To: Koul, Hari K. <hkoul@lsuhsc.edu>

Subject: Re: Your PLOS ONE article ref:_00DU0Ifis._500U0CU81X:ref

Dear Dr Koul,

I hope this message finds you well. Please accept my apologies for our delay in getting back to you, we very much appreciate your patience as we looked into this matter.

I think that we will be able to proceed with a correction on this manuscript, but ask that you please provide some additional information:

1. You have provided the updated panels, but could you please provide an updated figure to post on your article
2. In the original article, the data in Figure 3B was generated from an experiment run in triplicate. Please either provide results in triplicate for the update figure or revise the figure legend to reflect that the new data are based on a single replication.
3. Are the underlying data for all results reported in this article and its Supporting Information files still available? I.e. would you be able to provide all underlying data for the article, including for figures not mentioned in this Correction, if requested? If not, specify which data are not available and explain why. The underlying data would include original raw image files (e.g. for microscopy, blot, and gelimages), raw data tables with individual-level data from which you generated tables or graphs, raw FACS or mass spectrometry data, etc. Sequencing and microarray data should be deposited at a public repository; for more information see <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/s/data-availability#loc-recommended-repositories>.

Once we have this additional information, we can prepare a draft correction notice for your approval.

We thank you very much for your attention to this request and ask that you please provide the requested information by this Monday, October 14. Please do let us know if you have any questions.

Best Wishes,
Eileen

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----- Original Message -----

From: Koul, Hari K. [hkoul@lsuhsc.edu]

Sent: 5/24/2019 8:15 AM

To: plosone@plos.org

Subject: Re: Your PLOS ONE article ref:_00DU0Ifis._500U0CU81X:ref

Dear Dr. Clancy,

Please scroll down to the second page that has all the back-up information you requested. The blots are labelled in red:

1. KIM-1 Western Blot: Full uncropped unadjusted with two technical replicates
2. Tubulin Western Blot from the above
3. Tubulin: Enhanced Western Blot
4. KIM-1 Cropped and enhanced
5. Please let me know if you need anything else

Hari

From: <noreply@salesforce.com> on behalf of plosone <plosone@plos.org>
Date: Thursday, May 23, 2019 at 5:59 PM
To: "Koul, Hari K." <hkoul@lsuhsc.edu>
Subject: Re: Re: Your PLOS ONE article ref: _00DU0Ifis._500U0CU81X:ref

Dear Dr Koul,

Thank you for providing the replication data and antibody information, I apologize for my delay in replying. Could you please provide the raw uncropped and unadjusted blots underlying the panels in the replicated figure provided? I'd be grateful if you could please provide these additional files by this Wednesday, May 29? Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best Wishes,
Eileen

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----- Original Message -----

From: plosone [plosone@plos.org]
Sent: 5/8/2019 1:39 PM
To: hkoul@lsuhsc.edu
Subject: Re: Re: Your PLOS ONE article ref: _00DU0Ifis._500U0CU81X:ref

Dear Dr. Koul,

Thank you for providing the data from your replication experiments. I've shared these files with Eileen Clancy. We will follow up with you as soon as we have had an opportunity to review the files. Please let us know if you have any questions in the meantime.

Kind regards,

PLOS | OPEN FOR DISCOVER
| Senior Publications Assistant, PLOS ONE
1160 Battery Street, Suite 225, San Francisco, CA 94111

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Case Number: 03431667

ref:_00DU0Ifis._500U0CU81X:ref

----- Original Message -----

From: Koul, Hari K. [hkoul@lsuhsc.edu]

Sent: 5/8/2019 10:13 AM

To: plosone@plos.org

Subject: Re: Your PLOS ONE article ref:_00DU0Ifis._500U0CU81X:ref

Hi Ms. Clancy,

Please find attached, herewith, replication of our KIM-1 data as promised.

Attached ,herewith, are also data sheets for the two antibodies used.

The Blots were processed on Licor Odyssey CLx.

Please let me know if you need anything else.

Thank you for kind consideration.

sincerely

Hari

Hari K. Koul, PhD

From: <noreply@salesforce.com> on behalf of plosone <plosone@plos.org>

Date: Tuesday, April 30, 2019 at 1:41 PM

To: "Koul, Hari K." <hkoul@lsuhsc.edu>

Subject: Re: Your PLOS ONE article ref:_00DU0Ifis._500U0CU81X:ref

Dear Dr Koul,

Thanks very much for your prompt reply. Your replication results will help to inform our editorial decision in this matter so we very much look forward to receiving those. If you feel that the replication work will take longer than ~3 weeks, please do let us know.

Best Wishes,
Eileen

Eileen Clancy
Senior Editor
PLOS ONE

----- Original Message -----

From: Koul, Hari K. [hkoul@lsuhsc.edu]

Sent: 4/29/2019 12:56 PM

To: plosone@plos.org

Subject: Re: Your PLOS ONE article ref:_00DU0Ifis._500U0CU81X:ref

We have found a set of rat kidney tissue samples in our freezer (from an experiment repeated by a second researcher in the laboratory), and are in the process of getting these samples ready for repeating the western blot in question

I will share the results with you as soon as they become available

Hari

Hari K. Koul, MSc, PhD, FACN, FASN

1501 Kings Highway
Shreveport, LA 71130
318-675-8770
318-675-5180 (Fax)

From: <noreply@salesforce.com> on behalf of plosone <plosone@plos.org>
Date: Thursday, April 25, 2019 at 10:39 AM
To: "Koul, Hari K." <hkoul@lsuhsc.edu>
Subject: Re: Re: Your PLOS ONE article ref:_00DU0Ifis._500U0CU81X:ref

Dear Hari,

Thank you for your quick response. I will also be in touch again soon, once a staff editor has had an opportunity to review your comments.

In the meantime, please let me know if you have any updates concerning the tissues.

Kind regards,

PLOS | OPEN FOR DISCOVER
| Senior Publications Assistant, PLOS ONE
1160 Battery Street, Suite 225, San Francisco, CA 94111

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Case Number: 03431667
ref:_00DU0Ifis._500U0CU81X:ref

----- Original Message -----

From: Koul, Hari K. [hkoul@lsuhsc.edu]
Sent: 4/25/2019 8:29 AM
To: plosone@plos.org
Subject: Re: Your PLOS ONE article ref:_00DU0Ifis._500U0CU81X:ref

Dear ,

Thank you for your message. If we are able to find the tissues from previous experiments in our freezer, it should take about a week. However, if we are unable to do so, we will need to apply for a new animal protocol and it will take at least a few months before we can repeat the experiment.

I will let you know by next Wednesday, exactly after we search the freezers.

tMany thanks for your help

Hari

From: <noreply@salesforce.com> on behalf of plosone <plosone@plos.org>
Date: Thursday, April 25, 2019 at 10:21 AM
To: "Koul, Hari K." <hkoul@lsuhsc.edu>
Cc: "alison.lakin@ucdenver.edu" <alison.lakin@ucdenver.edu>
Subject: Re: Re: Your PLOS ONE article ref: _00DU0Ifis._500U0CU81X:ref

Dear Hari,

Thank you for your message. I will share your comments with the PLOS ONE staff editors for consideration. In the meantime, could you please specify how long it would take to repeat your experiments?

Kind regards,

PLOS | OPEN FOR DISCOVER
| Senior Publications Assistant, PLOS ONE
1160 Battery Street, Suite 225, San Francisco, CA 94111

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Case Number: 03431667
ref: _00DU0Ifis._500U0CU81X:ref

----- Original Message -----

From: Koul, Hari K. [hkoul@lsuhsc.edu]
Sent: 4/24/2019 11:47 AM
To: plosone@plos.org
Cc: alison.lakin@ucdenver.edu
Subject: Re: Your PLOS ONE article ref: _00DU0Ifis._500U0CU81X:ref

Dear Editor,

Thank you for the message. Since our previous communication, the issue with these blots was independently investigated by research integrity office at the university of Colorado. (I have copied this message to Dr Alison Lakin, the Research Integrity Officer at UC.) [REDACTED] the postdoctoral fellow who generated these data returned to India. In 2013 I moved to LSUHSC-S and did not take the data for published manuscripts as that work had completed. The University of Colorado did not retain these data either, as such the original data are no longer available. I had hoped that [REDACTED] the postdoctoral fellow who produced this work would have at least copies of the original blots, but he has since moved to Industry and does not have copies of these data either. As such It is impossible to address the issues raised. The investigation by University recommended we repeat the experiment in question to either confirm the data or correct the data in the manuscript if needed. We will repeat the experiment in question, but that is going to take some time.

Please let me know if these is anything else I need to do.

Sincerely

Hari

Sent unedited from my iPhone

On Apr 23, 2019, at 6:17 PM, plosone <plosone@plos.org> wrote:

EXTERNAL EMAIL: EVALUATE

Khandrika L, Koul S, Meacham RB, Koul HK (2012) Kidney Injury Molecule-1 Is Up-Regulated in Renal Epithelial Cells in Response to Oxalate *In Vitro* and in Renal Tissues in Response to Hyperoxaluria *In Vivo*. PLoS ONE 7(9): e44174. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0044174>

Dear Dr Koul,

Thank you for your response to our requests related to the preparation of images in your published manuscript entitled, "Kidney Injury Molecule-1 Is Up-Regulated in Renal Epithelial Cells in Response to Oxalate *In Vitro* and in Renal Tissues in Response to Hyperoxaluria *In Vivo*". We appreciate your attention to this matter and I would like to apologize for the great amount of time that has elapsed since our last communication about this matter.

Based on our review of the materials that you have provided, we have some additional questions, as noted on the attached form. I have also attached the raw data file that you originally provided (kim1.png), for your reference. To allow us to complete our review and resolve this matter, we ask that you please provide the additional information and/or files requested in the attached document no later than Wednesday, May 1. If we do not receive your response and all requested additional materials within this time frame, the editorial team will evaluate the concerns and consider whether a public notification should be posted on the publication. We may also contact your institution about this matter.

Please let us know as soon as possible if you have any questions about this timeline, or if you will be unable to provide the requested materials for any reason.

----- Original Message -----

From: David Accame [plosone@plos.org]

Sent: 3/2/2015 12:51 PM

To: hkoul@lsuhsc.edu

Subject: Re: Your PLOS ONE article ref:_00DU0Ifis._500U0CU81X:ref

Dear Dr. Koul,

Thank you for your reply and for providing the requested data and information. We recognize that this is a sensitive situation, and appreciate your cooperation.

An internal editor will be evaluating the information supplied and we may also consult with the Academic Editor who handled your manuscript. If you have any questions or additional information to provide in the interim, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind Regards,

PLOS | OPEN FOR DISCOVERY

| Publications Assistant, PLOS ONE

1160 Battery Street, Suite 100

San Francisco, CA 94111

plosone@plos.org

Case Number: 03431667
ref:_00DU0Ifis._500U0CU81X:ref

----- Original Message -----

From: Koul, Hari K. [hkoul@lsuhsc.edu]

Sent: 3/2/2015

To: plosone@plos.org

Subject: Re: Your PLOS ONE article pone.0044174 ref:_00DU0Ifis._500U0CU81X:ref

Here is another e-mail from the first author of this manuscript.

Hari

Hari K. Koul, MSc, PhD, FACN, FASN
Carroll W. Feist Endowed Chair

Professor & Chairman

Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology
Deputy Director Feist-Weiller Cancer Center(FWCC)
Director for Basic & Translational Research-FWCC
LSU Health Sciences Center – Shreveport
1501 Kings Highway-Shreveport, LA 71103-4228
[cid:9870454F-117D-4AC1-9FB0-270863981779]

Contact: Ms. Carlotta Ford
Assistant to the Chairman

Internet: Dr. Hari Koul – LSU Health - Shreveport

Department:

<http://www.lsuhealthshreveport.edu/BiochemistryandMolecularBiology/BiochemistryandMolecularBiologyHome1.aspx>

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2014 at 10:26 AM
To: hkoul <hkoul@lsuhsc.edu<mailto:hkoul@lsuhsc.edu>>>
Subject: Re: collaborative project?

Dear Dr Koul

I am attaching the original gel images for the westerns and also the complied picture for 3b. I hope that this is what you needed.

If you want, I can send the PCR images too.

Please let me know if you need anything else.

Thank you and kind Regards
[REDACTED]

On Wed, Sep 24, 2014 at 7:21 PM, Koul, Hari K. <hkoul@lsuhsc.edu<mailto:hkoul@lsuhsc.edu>>> wrote:
Thank you. No problem.

On another note, I was wondering, if you had a copy of original gel pictures that you used to generate

the figures for KIM-1 paper. Since we moved for Colorado, I do not seem to find much of the data that you generated and used for making these figures. I am most interested in original gel image for Fig 3b of the manuscript.

Please let me know ASAP

Sincerely

Hari

Hari

Hari K. Koul, MSc, PhD, FACN, FASN

Carroll W. Feist Endowed Chair

Professor & Chairman

Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology

LSU Health Sciences Center – Shreveport

Deputy Director Feist-Weiller Cancer Center(FWCC)

Director for Basic & Translational Research-FWCC

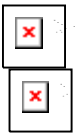
[cid:C3675F98-A651-453F-ADDC-79F20B586E81]



Internet: Dr. Hari Koul – LSU Health - Shreveport

Department:

<http://www.lsuhschshreveport.edu/BiochemistryandMolecularBiology/BiochemistryandMolecularBiologyHome1.aspx>



Vue, Shelby

From: Lakin, Alison
Sent: Monday, May 4, 2020 1:35 PM
To: plosone
Cc: ; Lakin, Alison
Subject: RE: Response requested - PLOS ONE: institutional investigation into doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0044174

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Maria

Thank you for letting me know your plan. It seems very appropriate and I agree with the proposed language below. The other institution was Louisiana State University Shreveport and my contact there was Sandra Roerig at SRoeri@lsuhsc.edu.

Thanks again
Alison

From: noreply@salesforce.com <noreply@salesforce.com> **On Behalf Of** plosone
Sent: Monday, May 4, 2020 9:30 AM
To: Lakin, Alison <ALISON.LAKIN@CUANSCHUTZ.EDU>
Cc: Lakin, Alison <ALISON.LAKIN@CUANSCHUTZ.EDU>;
Subject: RE: Response requested - PLOS ONE: institutional investigation into doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0044174

Dear Dr. Alison,

Thank you for sharing the excerpts from the institutional investigation. The editorial investigation into this manuscript has now been completed and we have decided to retract the article based on the unresolved concerns with Figure 3.

We aim to include the institutional investigation into the retraction notice, using the wording below. Please let us know if you have any objections to this text being included in the retraction notice. In addition, can you please let us know of the name and contact details of the second institution involved in the investigation, so that we can contact them and discuss the inclusion of this statement with them too?

"The University of Colorado and [second institution involved] jointly investigated this work and confirmed concerns about Figure 3B. The institutions were unable to clarify the issues regarding this figure and how the experiment was conducted based on available laboratory records."

I am looking forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,
Maria

Maria Zalm, Ph.D
Senior Editor Publication Ethics

PLOS | plosone@plos.org

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Carlyle House, Carlyle Road, Cambridge CB4 3DN | United Kingdom

California (U.S.) corporation #C2354500, based in San Francisco

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Case Number: 03431667
ref:_00DU0Ifis._500U0CU81X:ref

----- Original Message -----

From: Lakin, Alison [alison.lakin@cuanschutz.edu]

Sent: 4/16/2020 12:25 AM

To: ; plosone@plos.org

Cc: alison.lakin@cuanschutz.edu

Subject: FW: Re: RE: Response requested - PLOS ONE: institutional investigation into "Kidney Injury Molecule-1 Is Up-Regulated in Renal Epithelial Cells in Response to Oxalate In Vitro and in Renal Tissues in Response to Hyperoxaluria In Vivo" (doi: 10.1371/jou...

Dear Dr. Zalm

A research misconduct investigation was conducted and completed 12.18.2015. Unfortunately, it was challenging because the laboratory was closed and the key individuals were no longer at the institution but had moved to another institution. Therefore, we agreed to do a combined investigation. Attached are pertinent extracts from the investigation report that specifically relate to the journal article in question. I have also attached an e-mail exchange with Dr. Koul in which he agreed to contact the journal once he had re-done the experiment. I apologize that the correction was not made as had been indicated.

Please let me know if you need additional information.

Alison

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*When working remotely, you are responsible for protecting and securing all information including HIPAA protected health information (PHI) in the **same manner** as if you were working on-site. All system data, software, and equipment must be properly protected and secured. Except as necessary, you should not print PHI when working remotely. Any PHI that must be maintained in printed form should be properly secured and should be securely transferred to the workplace for proper storage or destruction as soon as practical.*

Alison Lakin RN, LLB, LLM, PhD

Associate Vice Chancellor for Regulatory Compliance

And Research Integrity Officer

University of Colorado Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus

E: alison.lakin@cuanschutz.edu | P: 303 724 1010

Direct: 303 724 0982 | Cell: 303 668 3357



Please note that my email address has changed! Please update your records accordingly.

To schedule a meeting please contact Esther Martinez: esther.martinez@cuanschutz.edu

From: noreply@salesforce.com <noreply@salesforce.com> **On Behalf Of** plosone

Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 10:12 AM

To: Lakin, Alison <ALISON.LAKIN@CUANSCHUTZ.EDU>

Cc: Lakin, Alison <ALISON.LAKIN@CUANSCHUTZ.EDU>

Subject: Re: Re: RE: Response requested - PLOS ONE: institutional investigation into "Kidney Injury Molecule-1 Is Up-Regulated in Renal Epithelial Cells in Response to Oxalate In Vitro and in Renal Tissues in Response to Hyperoxaluria In Vivo" (doi: 10.1371/jou...)

Dear Alison,

I'm writing to follow up on Maria Zalm's message from March 31. Could you please provide as estimate as to

when you will be able to share the investigation files related to the 2012 *PLOS ONE* article "Kidney Injury Molecule-1 Is Up-Regulated in Renal Epithelial Cells in Response to Oxalate In Vitro and in Renal Tissues in Response to Hyperoxaluria In Vivo" (doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0044174)?

Kind regards,

PLOS | OPEN FOR DISCOVER

| Senior Publications Assistant, PLOS ONE

1160 Battery Street, Suite 225, San Francisco, CA 94111

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Case Number: 03431667

ref:_00DU0Ifis._500U0CU81X:ref

----- Original Message -----

From: plosone [plosone@plos.org]

Sent: 4/2/2020 9:26 AM

To: alison.lakin@cuanschultz.edu

Cc: alison.lakin@cuanschultz.edu

Subject: Re: RE: Response requested - PLOS ONE: institutional investigation into "Kidney Injury Molecule-1 Is Up-Regulated in Renal Epithelial Cells in Response to Oxalate In Vitro and in Renal Tissues in Response to Hyperoxaluria In Vivo" (doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0

Dear Alison,

Thank you for confirming that you received Maria's message. We look forward to receiving your complete response, please do keep us updated if you think you'll require additional time to prepare your response.

Kind regards,

PLOS | OPEN FOR DISCOVER

| Senior Publications Assistant, PLOS ONE

1160 Battery Street, Suite 225, San Francisco, CA 94111

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Case Number: 03431667

ref:_00DU0Ifis._500U0CU81X:ref

----- Original Message -----

From: Lakin, Alison [alison.lakin@cuanschutz.edu]

Sent: 3/31/2020 3:31 PM

To: plosone@plos.org

Cc: alison.lakin@cuanschutz.edu

Subject:

Dear Dr. Zalm

I apologize for my delayed response. I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your request for information regarding this article. I will respond again shortly with additional information.

As you observed, these are challenging times but I will review my available files and get back to you shortly.

Alison

HIPAA @ HOME - DID YOU KNOW...?

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Alison Lakin RN, LLB, LLM, PhD

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And Research Integrity Officer

University of Colorado Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus

E: alison.lakin@cuanschutz.edu | **P:** 303 724 1010

Direct: 303 724 0982 | **Cell:** 303 668 3357



Please note that my email address has changed! Please update your records accordingly.

To schedule a meeting please contact Esther Martinez: esther.martinez@cuanschutz.edu

From: noreply@salesforce.com <noreply@salesforce.com> **On Behalf Of** plosone

Sent: Saturday, March 28, 2020 4:52 AM

To: Lakin, Alison <ALISON.LAKIN@CUANSCHUTZ.EDU>

Subject: Response requested - PLOS ONE: institutional investigation into "Kidney Injury Molecule-1 Is Up-Regulated in Renal Epithelial Cells in Response to Oxalate In Vitro and in Renal Tissues in Response to Hyperoxaluria In Vivo" (doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.00...)

Dear Dr. Lakin,

I would like to introduce myself as a Senior Editor with the *PLOS* publication ethics team, and I am reaching out to you to discuss concerns with the 2012 *PLOS ONE* article "Kidney Injury Molecule-1 Is Up-Regulated in Renal Epithelial Cells in Response to Oxalate In Vitro and in Renal Tissues in Response to Hyperoxaluria In Vivo" (doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0044174)

We are currently investigating concerns that have been raised pertaining to the reporting of the western blot data presented in this article. During our previous correspondences with the corresponding author, we have been notified that the research integrity office at the university of Colorado has carried out an independent investigation into the western blots presented in the article.

At this point I would like to ask you if you can confirm whether the university has indeed carried out an independent investigation as the corresponding author has indicated. In addition, we would be grateful if you could share the outcomes of the investigation with the *PLOS* publication ethics team, along with the commission's recommendations on further action to be taken on this article.

We understand that due to the global COVID crisis, you may not be able to provide us with a full response within the next two weeks, but we would be grateful if you could confirm receipt of this email by 01 April 2020.

Best regards,

Maria

Maria Zalm, Ph.D
Senior Editor Publication Ethics

PLOS | plosone@plos.org

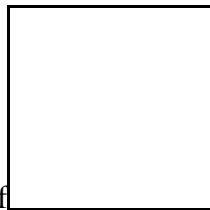
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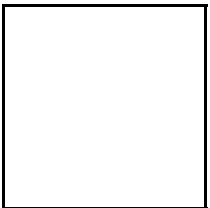
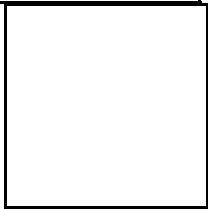
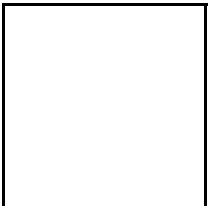
California (U.S.) corporation #C2354500, based in San Francisco

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Case Number: 03431667



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Vue, Shelby

From: noreply@salesforce.com on behalf of plosone <plosone@plos.org>
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2020 10:35 AM
To: hkoul@lsuhsc.edu
Cc: hkoul@lsuhsc.edu; Lakin, Alison
Subject: PLOS ONE: Update regarding your PLOS ONE article pone.0044174

Dear Dr. Koul and colleagues,

I am writing to follow up on our previous correspondence regarding your PLOS ONE article: "Kidney Injury Molecule-1 is up-regulated in renal epithelial cells in response to oxalate in vitro and in response to hyperoxaluria in vivo" (<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0044174>).

The retraction notice for your article is scheduled for publication on June 11, 2020.

Kind regards,

Senior Publications Assistant

PLOS ONE | plosone@plos.org
Empowering researchers to transform science
1160 Battery Street, Suite 225, San Francisco, CA 94111

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Case Number: 03431667

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Vue, Shelby

From: Harikoul <harikoul@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2016 1:59 PM
To: Lakin, Alison
Subject: Re: publications

I have sent the corrections as recommended by the CU panel to JBC. I am in process of communicating with the editors repetition of results of one of the experiments in the JBC in order to correct the perceived discrepancies in the JBC publication.

Also we have repeated experiments for three other publications and are in process of compiling the data. Needless to say we were able to repeat the results in all three cases.

Once I have the data from these experiments and when I am ready, I will inform the respective journals about the issues. Of course, you will be copied ...

Thanks
Hari

Dr. K
Sent un-edited from my iPhone

On May 11, 2016, at 2:08 PM, Lakin, Alison <Alison.Lakin@ucdenver.edu> wrote:

Dear Hari

I have not seen any e-mail traffic in relation to the journal articles recently so I just wanted to touch base to see where things stand.

Thanks
Alison

Alison Lakin RN, LLB, LLM, PhD
Associate Vice Chancellor for Regulatory Compliance
And Research Integrity Officer
University of Colorado Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus
Mail stop F497, Building 500, WG109
13001 E. 17th Place
Aurora, CO 80045

Office: 303 724 1010
Cell: 303 668 3357
Fax: 303 724 1019
alison.lakin@ucdenver.edu

Please note that the location of my office has changed as of January 8th, 2016

From: Hari Koul [<mailto:harikoul@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2016 2:23 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Lakin, Alison <Alison.Lakin@ucdenver.edu>
Subject: Re: Corrected Figure JBC-Fig 6

Thank you [REDACTED]

I concur with your suggestions. I am copying this message to Dr. Alison Lakin RIO at CU and seek he feed back. With this e-mail I am also asking Alison if we need to use a letter format for communicating this correction with the editor. If there is no such requirement,

My suggestion is:

I write to the editor that you have noted an inadvertent error in Fig 6 and request correction using following language:

"

We noted an error in transposing the GAPDH bands. We have corrected the error and transposed the GAPDH bands like they are supposed to be and we have rerun all the densitometry. Although the average number and error bar width changes in the densitometry analysis, nothing changes from the original manuscript. In the cell lysates, we still see only MMP9 and MMP13 changing statistically significant; whereas, only MMP9 is statistically different in the tumor lysates.

Again I want to emphasize that not a single conclusion in the paper is changed as a result of this misstep."

Dr Lakin,

Please advise if this is acceptable plan...

If this is acceptable, i will circulate the letter to all the co-authors and send it to the JBC editorial staff for corrections...

Thank you

Hari

On Tue, Mar 15, 2016 at 11:06 AM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Hari,

There are 2 figures attached.

The first one entitled "Figure – Explanation.jpg" is what I had sent Colorado. The figure explains my transposition error. The error in question is Figure 6. The red and blue boxed GAPDH bands just need to be put under the other column. Thus, when you do this the red boxed GAPDH indicates tumor lysates and the blue represents cell lysates throughout the paper. There is nothing wrong with the green boxed area, please ignore...I just borrowed this figure from pubpeer to demonstrate what other's had issues with and what I discovered I had in error.

The second one entitled “New Figure 6 – Recorrection Request March 2016.tif” is the “New” figure 6. There I have transposed the GAPDH bands like they are supposed to be and I have rerun all the densitometry. Although the average number and error bar width changes in the densitometry analysis, nothing changes from the original manuscript. In the cell lysates, we still see only MMP9 and MMP13 changing statistically significant; whereas, only MMP9 is statistically different in the tumor lysates.

Again I want to emphasize that not a single conclusion in the paper is changed as a result of this misstep.

Please let me know if you have any further questions or need additional information.

[Redacted text block containing multiple lines of blacked-out content]