

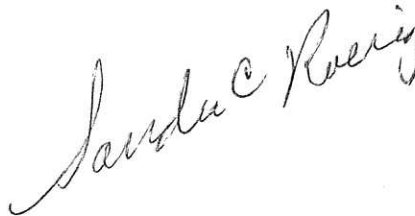
LSUHSC-S

Campus Correspondence

Office of Research

Date: August 18, 2014

From: **Sandra C. Roerig, Ph.D.**
Associate Dean for Research
Dean, School of Graduate Studies



To: Robert Barish, M.D.
Chancellor

Attached is the final report of the Inquiry Committee that was charged with evaluating an allegation of research misconduct against Dr. Hari Koul's laboratory.

This final report includes the revised draft of the report, revised as suggested by the respondents, Dr. Koul and Dr. Mintu Pal, as well as the responses of the respondents to that original draft.

The recommendation of the Committee is found on page 11 of this report. The recommendation is that an investigation should be preformed.

Please review the report and provide your response by Friday, August 22, which is 60 days from the initial meeting of the Inquiry Committee, in accordance with the LSUHSC-S policy for dealing with allegations of research misconduct.

Your response may be to either accept, or not accept the recommendation of the Committee.

Thank you.

August 13th, 2014

Attn: Dr. Sandra C. Roerig

Dean, School of Graduate Studies
Associate Dean for Research
Professor, Department of Pharmacology, Toxicology & Neuroscience
LSUHSC-Shreveport, LA

Re: Reply to the report of inquiry committee

Dear Dr. Sandra C. Roerig,

With due respect I would like to state that I am very disappointed for some misconceptions, and errors in the report by the inquiry committee after the investigation, this report appears to represent the conclusion on the basis of “scientific misconduct was self-reported by Dr. Mintu Pal” mentioned in the first line of Nature of allegations; which is incorrect. As a respondent, I wanted to mention that I myself found the errors occurred in the JBC paper (J Biol Chem. 2013, 288, 12222), when I was preparing poster for Barlow symposium and immediately informed to Dr. Koul. Dr. Koul informed to Dr. Roerig and then all together discussed about the correction procedure at every steps with my laboratory notebook, which is now with Dr. Roerig and this mistake was an honest mistake. We have not retracted the manuscript, but we have withdrawn the manuscript, and hopefully will resubmit it after reorganizing these data. Sadly, this report suggests that I initially mentioned scientific misconduct before any investigation. In addition to this, the following issues are also either partially correct or omitted some discussions.

1. Page 4, first and second lines are inappropriate; because Dr. Roerig asked me the last question “Do you feel that the data are good enough that if you put them together correctly it’s still a good paper”?
2. In many places it has been mentioned only ‘cutting and pasting’. I mentioned that when I copied the images from the original images and put into the power point slides in small sizes, errors occurred due to misplacing or during arranging the data.
3. Page 6, 2nd paragraph, I mentioned that initially we wanted to put 3 cell lines image in our manuscript, but later we plan few more cell lines and therefore, the initially planned GAPDH panel gel images of Figure 1C put into the another figure (Figure 2C) by mistake.
4. Page 6, 5th Paragraph, I mentioned that whenever Dr Koul wanted to look the laboratory notebook for the original data/images, I have shown him but not weekly basis.
5. Page 6, last paragraph, my final statement was “I apologize for the errors occurred in the JBC paper.....” which is omitted in the report.

Therefore, I would like to request you to put the original audio record and transcripts of testimony.

I respectfully request that this report be eliminated as it is based on erroneous pretence and is factually inaccurate and a new inquiry clear mandate needed be initiated if needed.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important inquiry report.

Sincerely,

Mintu



Mintu Pal, Ph.D,

Postdoctoral Fellow

Dept. of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology

LSUHSC- Shreveport

CC. Dr. Robert A. Barish, MD, MBA, Chancellor, LSUHSC-Shreveport, LA

Dr. John Marymont, MD, MBA, Dean of School of Medicine, LSUHSC-Shreveport, LA

Susan Armstrong, MSN, MBA, JD, Senior Legal Counsel, LSUHSC-Shreveport, LA