

The Chairman,  
Higher Education Commission (HEC)  
Islamabad

**Subject: Review Appeal Against the Decision of HEC Experts Committee bearing No. Ref: 3-1-268- P/QAD/HEC/2022/216 dated February 28, 2022 under Section 13 of HEC Plagiarism Policy**

Esteemed Prof. Dr. Tariq Javed Bunari,

I submit my Review Appeal under Section 13 of HEC Plagiarism Policy against the decision of the HEC Experts Committee (Reference of Letter No 3-1-268-P/QAD/HEC/2022/216 dated 28.02.2022-**Annexure I**). Although the said committee has firmly established that the paper was plagiarized yet it has ignored the material facts submitted by the undersigned in its Written Submission through email dated 03.01.2022, and accepted the few submissions of Prof. Dr. Muhammad Suleman Tahir (VC KFUEIT) single sidedly without affording any opportunity to the undersigned to cross-examine and to invalidate his claims. This act of the said committee is against the spirit of Fair Trial/Fundamental Right duly protected under Article 10A of the Constitution of Pakistan.

I have objections regarding the following Observations and Conclusion of the said committee:

Observation I: “the Written Statement of the Vice Chancellor, (KFUEIT) was received that he was not aware of the publication and his name was added without his consent”

Observation II: “the retraction was done on his request”

Conclusion: “Since this complaint was against the Vice Chancellor (KFUEIT) and the committee after detail deliberation and investigation did not find him

responsible for the said plagiarized paper and recommend no penalty against him”

**Grounds:**

- i. The **Observation I** is false because Professor Dr. Muhammad Suleman Tahir (VC KFUEIT) and the Corresponding Authors of the Plagiarized Research Paper, Dr. Muhammad Sagir and Dr. Muhammad Bilal Tahir (*as Plaintiffs*) filed a Defamation Suite 4985/2021 dated 05.07.2021 (**Annexure II**) before the District Court Rahim Yar Khan where in Para 8 of the aforementioned Suit it is stated

“8. That Defendant No. 2 published a paper in January 2020, *plaintiffs submitted a paper to research journal “Fuel” in February 2020* which was published in October 2020...”

Secondly, Mr. Suleman Tahir sent an email to RMIT university on 26-06-2021 and claimed that I (Farukh) plagiarised his and his student data. His claimed was investigated by RMIT university. The letter of RMIT is attached in Annexure (III). Thus, it is crystal clear that Professor Dr. Muhammad Suleman Tahir (VC KFUEIT) has already admitted in its Defamation Suite 4985/2021 dated 05.07.2021 before the Court of Law that he submitted the research paper to Journal “Fuel”, and in RMIT letter he admitted that data belongs to him and his research student and it is enough to establish that he was not only fully aware of submission of research paper but he had consented to do so. Thus, it is established that Professor Dr. Muhammad Suleman Tahir (VC KFUEIT) made a false statement before the HEC Experts Committee and the said committee accepted his claim as such without any verification.

- ii. The **Observation II** is also not true because the Plagiarized Research Paper was retracted from the Journal “Fuel” on my complaint. The representative of Elsevier, Kathleen Ahamed-Broadhurst, informed and congratulated the undersigned about the retraction via email dated 12.06.2021 (**Annexure IV**). The retraction note published by the Journal “Fuel” (**Annexure V**) did not mention it at all that the said retraction was done on the request of the Authors, whereas, there are several

examples (**Annexure VI**) where it has been clearly mentioned that the retraction has been made on the request of the Authors. **Annexure IV to VII** clearly establish that the retraction from “Fuel” was not done on the request of the Professor Dr. Muhammad Suleman Tahir (VC KFUEIT), and his statement before the committee is not true. The Committee simply trusted the statement of Professor Dr. Muhammad Suleman Tahir (VC KFUEIT), rather it must have contacted the Fuel/Elsevier to reach any conclusion.

- iii. As the **Observations I & II** clearly establish that Professor Dr. Muhammad Suleman Tahir (VC KFUEIT) was fully aware about the submission of Plagiarized Research Paper to the Journal “Fuel” as per his submission before the Court of Law, and the retraction from “Fuel” was not done on his request, thus, Professor Dr. Muhammad Suleman Tahir (VC KFUEIT) is guilty of Plagiarism and making false statement before the HEC Experts Committee, hence, he could not be acquitted from the charge of Plagiarism. HEC Committee ignored the material facts and made a defected decision on the peripheral grounds.

### **Prayer**

It is respectfully prayed

1. To consider the submissions of the undersigned after affording an opportunity of representation and investigate the conduct of Professor Dr. Muhammad Suleman Tahir (VC KFUEIT) before the HEC Expert Committee in the light of his admission in Para 8 of Defamation Suite 4985/2021 dated 05.07.2021 filed before the Court of Law.
2. To Declare Professor Dr. Muhammad Suleman Tahir (VC KFUEIT) guilty of Plagiarism and making false statement before committee to deceit the course of justice intentionally
3. To impose the due penalty against Professor Dr. Muhammad Suleman Tahir (VC KFUEIT) for his conduct plagiarism as per HEC Plagiarism Policy.

Regards,

Mr. Farukh Iqbal



PhD Candidate, RMIT, Australia

Tel +61414794268; Email: [farukh.iqbal@student.rmit.edu.au](mailto:farukh.iqbal@student.rmit.edu.au)

Dated 24.03.2022

**ANNEXURE I**



ہائیر ایجوکیشن کمیشن

**HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION**

Government of Pakistan, Islamabad

office of the  
**DEPUTY DIRECTOR**  
Quality Assurance Division (QAD)

Sector H-9  
Islamabad, Pakistan  
[www.hec.gov.pk](http://www.hec.gov.pk)

Ref: 3-1-268-P/QAD/HEC/2022/216  
Date: February 28, 2022

**SUBJECT: REPORT ON COMPLAINT OF PLAGIARISM AGAINST THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, KFUEIT**

A complaint of plagiarism was received from Mr. Farukh Iqbal, PhD candidate at RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia alleging that his Master's thesis data was plagiarized by the Vice Chancellor, of Khwaja Fareed University of Engineering & Information Technology (KFUEIT).

In order to review the matter, as provided in the policy, a committee of experts was constituted. A series of meetings of the Committee of Experts were held. The Committee provided the opportunity of presenting the case to both parties and after reviewing all the documents, made the following recommendations.

- The available evidence was reviewed and the written statement of the Vice Chancellor, (KFUEIT) was received that he was not aware of the publication and his name was added without his consent. He approached the editor of the Journal for retraction of the alleged paper and the retraction was done on his request. The committee found nothing contrary to what he has presented in his letter/ written statement. Therefore, he was not found responsible for the publication of the alleged plagiarized paper.
- The committee firmly established that the paper was plagiarized, and the source of the data is the thesis which is submitted by Mr. Numair to the University of Gujrat. It was established that thesis is completely plagiarized as claimed by Mr. Farukh Iqbal. The Plagiarized paper has been retracted and is no more part of the literature. Moreover, the Vice Chancellor has not taken any benefit based on the alleged paper.
- Since this the complaint was against the Vice Chancellor, (KFUEIT) and the committee after detail deliberation and investigation did not find him responsible for the said plagiarized paper and recommend no penalty against him.

  
(Zafar Ali Sial)

1. **Mr. Farukh Iqbal,**  
PhD candidate at RMIT University, Melbourne
2. **The Vice Chancellor**  
Khwaja Fareed University of Engineering & Information Technology  
Abu Dhabi Road, Rahim Yar Khan

**Copy for Information:**

1. E.S to Executive Director, Higher Education Commission, H-9, Islamabad
2. APS to Advisor (A&C), Higher Education Commission, H-9, Islamabad
3. Director (QEC), Khwaja Fareed University of Engineering & Information Technology Rahim Yar Khan
4. Office Copy

**BEFORE THE DISTRICT JUDGE, RAHIM YAR KHAN**

Date of institution: 05 JUL 2021  
Presented by: Mr. Zubair Ghannam A.P.J.  
Date of appearance: 07/07/21  
No. 4985  
Suit No. 577/21/2021



100  
07-07-21

1. **Dr. Muhammad Sagir**, Associate Professor, Department of Chemical Engineering, Khwaja Fareed University of Engineering and Information Technology, RYK S/o Riasat Ali R/O Khwaja Fareed University of Engineering and Information Technology, Abu Dhabi Road, RYK, Cell No. 03338487665
2. **Dr. Muhammad Bilal Tahir**, Assistant Professor, Department of Physics Khwaja Fareed University of Engineering and Information Technology, RYK S/o Allah Ditta Tahir R/O Khwaja Fareed University of Engineering and Information Technology, Abu Dhabi Road, RYK Cell No. 03009823010
3. **Prof. Dr. Muhammad Suleman Tahir**, Vice Chancellor, Khwaja Fareed University of Engineering and Information Technology, Rahim Yar Khan

PLAINTIFFS

**VERSUS**

1. Mr. Farukh Iqbal, S/o Muhammad Iqbal Ahmad, R/O House No.2, Street No.1, Jhang Road, Faisalabad. Cell No. 0333-6585482, [mfarukhiqbal@gmail.com](mailto:mfarukhiqbal@gmail.com)

DEFENDANT

2. **Mr. Numair Manzoor**, S/o Manzoor Ahmad, R/O House No. 214-215, Block-F, Shah Rukan-e-Alam Colony, Multan, District Multan. Cell No.0335-4236868, 0333-8660826.

PROFORMA DEFENDANTS



- 7- That the article claimed by defendant No.1 was published on March-2020 (First published: 12 March 2020), nearly after the 2 months later of first article published by defendant No.2 and the team of co-authors. Both articles as; <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/jctb.6408> and <https://www.mdpi.com/2073-4344/10/2/163> can be seen on internet. As per defendant No.1 own video which is available on YouTube, he claimed that he completed his MS in 2017 and his paper was rejected by many times and was unable to publish his results for three years and a person who copy his work quickly publish two papers. This all is very astonishing and improbable and does not appeal to prudent mind. If defendant No.1 is competent enough and has done his thesis with own hands, then he would have published it well before any other can do it.
- 8 That the defendant No.2 published a paper in January 2020, plaintiffs submitted a paper to research journal 'Fuel' in February 2020 which was published in October 2020 & based on MSc thesis of defendant No.2 and the paper of defendant No.1 is published in March 2020. The defendant No.1 claimed on the basis of his March 2020 publication that the plaintiffs used his plagiarized data in their publication. The plaintiffs submitted the paper before publication of defendant No.1. The defendant No.2 must have to explain that how and where he got the data for his thesis and why he did not inform his supervisor. In such situation the defendant No.2 would be responsible and for this very reason, he is impleaded as proforma defendant and he

ASIR KHAN  
07 JUL 2021



11 November 2021

CONFIDENTIAL

Mr Farukh Iqbal  
School of Engineering, College of STEM  
RMIT University

By email [S3801423@student.rmit.edu.au](mailto:S3801423@student.rmit.edu.au)

Dear Mr Iqbal,

I write to inform you of the outcome of our preliminary assessment of a research integrity complaint related to the following research output:

Farukh Iqbal, Asad Mumtaz, Syed Shahabuddin, Mohamed Ibrahim Abd Mutalib, Maizatul Shima Shaharun, Trinh Duy Nguyen, Maksudur Rahman Khan, Bawadi Abdullah.  
"Photocatalytic reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> to methanol over ZnFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/TiO<sub>2</sub> (p–n) heterojunctions under visible light irradiation." *Journal of Chemical Technology and Biotechnology* Volume 95, Issue 8 (2020). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1002/jctb.6408>.

Professor Muhammad Suleman Tahir alleges that you plagiarised his work and the work of his research candidate, Mr Numair Manzoor. This allegation was considered as a potential breach of research integrity, in line with the [Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research \(2018\)](#) and RMIT's [Research Integrity Breach Management Procedure](#).

In completing the preliminary assessment, we reviewed material provided by you and by Professor Tahir, as well as iThenticate plagiarism detection software similarity reports of each of the related research outputs.

We found no evidence that you plagiarised the work of Professor Tahir and Mr Manzoor. Both of the research outputs in question appear to be based on your own Masters research which you completed at Universiti Teknologi Petronas (UTP) in 2017. It appears that the research output that Professor Tahir alleges that you plagiarised, instead, inappropriately reproduces your own work without reference or citation. Furthermore, we note that a third output published by Professor Tahir has been retracted by the publisher due to plagiarism.

Per point 34 of the RMIT [Research Integrity Breach Management Procedure](#), our findings and recommendations were submitted to the Designated Officer (Jane Holt, Executive Director, Research Strategy and Services), who has determined that

- the research integrity complaint be dismissed and will not progress to investigation.

RMIT University takes seriously the integrity of its research, and guidance and expert advice about research integrity can be found via the [Researcher Portal](#) or by getting in contact with the Research Ethics, Integrity, and Governance team.

Should you have any questions regarding the above or related to research integrity more generally please contact us or speak with a [Research Integrity Advisor](#).

RMIT Classification: Trusted

With best regards,

**Dr David Blades**  
Senior Coordinator, Research Integrity and Governance  
+61 3 9925 2165  
[david.blades@rmit.edu.au](mailto:david.blades@rmit.edu.au) | [researchintegrity@rmit.edu.au](mailto:researchintegrity@rmit.edu.au)

Research Ethics, Integrity, and Governance | Research Strategy and Services | Research and Innovation Portfolio | RMIT University



**ANNEXURE IV**

8/13/2021

Gmail - Retraction Approved!



Farukh Iqbal <mfarukhiqbal@gmail.com>

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## Retraction Approved!

2 messages

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**Ahamed-Broadhurst, Kathleen (ELS-CMA)** <k.ahamed-broadhurst@elsevier.com>  
To: Farukh Iqbal <mfarukhiqbal@gmail.com>

Sat, Jun 12, 2021 at 4:00 AM

Dear Dr. Iqbal,

I have great news. The retraction has been, finally, and completely, approved. The Journal Manager of Fuel had put in the request to have the retraction posted and the article taken down.

I am sorry that it was such a process, thank you for your patience.

Best,

Kathleen

### **Kathleen Ahamed-Broadhurst**

Publisher, Energy and Fuel Journals

**ELSEVIER** | Physical Sciences | STM Journals

+1 617 335 7691

[k.ahamed-broadhurst@elsevier.com](mailto:k.ahamed-broadhurst@elsevier.com)

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My working hours may not be your working hours. Do not feel pressure to reply to this email outside your working hours.

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**Farukh Iqbal** <mfarukhiqbal@gmail.com>

Sat, Jun 12, 2021 at 4:03 AM

To: "Ahamed-Broadhurst, Kathleen (ELS-CMA)" <k.ahamed-broadhurst@elsevier.com>

Thank you, Kathleen. It's really great news. Now, what are the final comments? Can you please share that as well?

Thanks

**Farukh Iqbal**

Phone: 0414794268

Email: [mfarukhiqbal@gmail.com](mailto:mfarukhiqbal@gmail.com)

[Quoted text hidden]



ELSEVIER

Fuel

Volume 285, 1 February 2021, 119206



## RETRACTED: Fabrication of $\text{ZnFe}_2\text{O}_4$ modified $\text{TiO}_2$ hybrid composites for photocatalytic reduction of $\text{CO}_2$ into methanol

Muhammad Suleman Tahir<sup>a, b, c</sup>, Numair Manzoor<sup>c</sup>, Muhammad Sagir<sup>c</sup>✉, M.B. Tahir<sup>d</sup>✉, Tasmia Nawaz<sup>d</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Department of Chemical Engineering, Khwaja Fareed University of Engineering and Information Technology (KFUEIT), Pakistan

<sup>b</sup> Vice Chancellor Office, Khwaja Fareed University of Engineering and Information Technology (KFUEIT), Pakistan

<sup>c</sup> Department of Chemical Engineering, University of Gujrat, 50700, Gujrat, Pakistan

<sup>d</sup> Department of Physics, University of Gujrat, 50700, Gujrat, Pakistan

Received 31 January 2020, Revised 26 August 2020, Accepted 5 September 2020, Available online 11 October 2020.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fuel.2020.119206>

This article has been retracted: please see Elsevier Policy on Article Withdrawal (<http://www.elsevier.com/locate/withdrawalpolicy>).

The article plagiarized part of the PhD thesis of Farukh Iqbal, that part of the thesis was subsequently published here: J Chem Technol Biotechnol 2020; 95: 2208–2221 <https://doi.org/10.1002/jctb.6408>

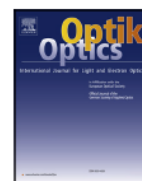
One of the conditions of submission of a paper for publication is that authors declare explicitly that their work is original and has not appeared in a publication elsewhere. Re-use of any data should be appropriately cited. As such this article represents a severe abuse of the scientific publishing system. The scientific community takes a very strong view on this matter and apologies are offered to readers of the journal that this was not detected during the submission process.



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Optik

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/ijleo](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/ijleo)



Retraction notice

Retraction notice to “Tuning the structure and optical properties of nanostructured CdS by Cu doping” [Optik 203 (2019) 164073]



Islah-u-din<sup>a,\*</sup>, W.T. Salam<sup>a</sup>, S.S.A. Gillani<sup>a</sup>, M.B. Tahir<sup>b</sup>, M. Ikram<sup>a</sup>, S. Ali<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Department of Physics, Government College University Lahore, 54000, Lahore, Pakistan

<sup>b</sup> Department of Physics, University of Gujrat, Gujrat, Pakistan

This article has been retracted: please see Elsevier Policy on Article Withdrawal (<https://www.elsevier.com/about/our-business/policies/article-withdrawal>).

This article has been retracted at the request of Editor in Chief and Corresponding Author. The authors submitted essentially the same material to another publication. Several paragraphs and some results of the article were already published as “Doping Dependent Structural, Optical, Thermal and Catalysis Properties of Synthesized Cadmium Sulfide Nanoparticles” in Nanoscience and Nanotechnology Letters. <https://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/asp/nnl/2018/00000010/00000012/art00005> we apologize for any inconvenience caused.

DOI of original article: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijleo.2019.164073>

\* Corresponding author.



E-mail address: [islahudin@gcu.edu.pk](mailto:islahudin@gcu.edu.pk) (Islah-u-din).

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijleo.2020.164707>

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Retraction

## Retraction: Manzoor et al. Experimental Study of CO<sub>2</sub> Conversion into Methanol by Synthesized Photocatalyst (ZnFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/TiO<sub>2</sub>) Using Visible Light as an Energy Source. *Catalysts* 2020, 10, 163

 Numair Manzoor <sup>1</sup>, Muhammad Sadiq <sup>2</sup>, Muhammad Naqvi <sup>3,\*</sup> , Umair Sikandar <sup>4</sup> and Salman Raza Naqvi <sup>4</sup> 
<sup>1</sup> Engineer Distribution, Department of Health, Safety and Environment, Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL), Islamabad 46000, Pakistan; numair.manzoor@sngpl.com.pk

<sup>2</sup> The Joint Graduate School of Energy and Environment, King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi, KMUTT, Bangkok 10140, Thailand; mmsadiq@ksu.edu.sa

<sup>3</sup> Department of Engineering and Chemical Sciences, Karlstad University, 65188 Karlstad, Sweden

<sup>4</sup> School of Chemical and Materials Engineering, National University of Sciences and Technology, Islamabad 44000, Pakistan; umair.sikandar@scme.nust.edu.pk (U.S.); salman.raza@scme.nust.edu.pk (S.R.N.)

\* Correspondence: raza.naqvi@kau.se



**Citation:** Manzoor, N.; Sadiq, M.; Naqvi, M.; Sikandar, U.; Naqvi, S.R. Retraction: Manzoor et al. Experimental Study of CO<sub>2</sub> Conversion into Methanol by Synthesized Photocatalyst (ZnFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/TiO<sub>2</sub>) Using Visible Light as an Energy Source. *Catalysts* 2020, 10, 163. *Catalysts* 2022, 12, 336. <https://doi.org/10.3390/catal12030336>

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The journal retracts the article, "Experimental Study of CO<sub>2</sub> Conversion into Methanol by Synthesized Photocatalyst (ZnFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/TiO<sub>2</sub>) Using Visible Light as an Energy Source" [1] cited above.

Following publication, concerns were brought to the attention of the editorial office by the co-authors regarding overlap with a thesis which was subsequently published [2].

Adhering to our complaints procedure, an investigation was conducted that confirmed the overlap.

This retraction was approved by the Editor in Chief of the journal *Catalysts*. All authors except the first author agreed to the retraction.

### References

- Manzoor, N.; Sadiq, M.; Naqvi, M.; Sikandar, U.; Naqvi, S.R. Experimental Study of CO<sub>2</sub> Conversion into Methanol by Synthesized Photocatalyst (ZnFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/TiO<sub>2</sub>) Using Visible Light as an Energy Source. *Catalysts* 2020, 10, 163. [[CrossRef](#)]
- Iqbal, F.; Mumtaz, A.; Shahabuddin, S.; Abd Mutalib, M.I.; Shaharun, M.S.; Nguyen, T.D.; Khan, M.R.; Abdullah, B. Photocatalytic reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> to methanol over ZnFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/TiO<sub>2</sub> (p–n) heterojunctions under visible light irradiation. *J. Chem. Technol. Biotechnol.* 2020, 95, 2208–2221. [[CrossRef](#)]