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Dr. Erwin Tschachler, Editor in Chief
Journal of Investigative Dermatology
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Subject:

- Article #1: **J. of Invest Dermatol. (2010) 130(8): 2017–2030.**
  "PKC-δ and -η, MEKK-1, MEK-6, MEK-3, and p38-δ Are Essential Mediators of the Response of Normal HumanEpidermal Keratinocytes to Differentiating Agents"
  Gautam Adhikary, Yap Ching Chew, E. Albert Reece, and Richard L. Eckert

- Article #2: **J. of Investigative Dermatology (2008) 128, 517–529**
  "Localization of the TIG3 Transglutaminase Interaction Domain and Demonstration that the Amino-Terminal Region Is Required for TIG3 Function as a Keratinocyte Differentiation Regulator."
  Ralph Jans, Michael T. Sturniolo and Richard L. Eckert.

Dear Dr. Tschachler,

I am writing as the Provost and Executive Vice President of the University of Maryland, Baltimore regarding the Subject publications.

The University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) conducted an internal investigation which found by a preponderance of the evidence that the Subject articles were compromised. In order to correct the scientific record and ensure its integrity, the investigation committee recommended retraction of article #2 and correction or retraction of article #1. UMB leaves the final decision to retract or correct to the discretion of the publisher. If an article is corrected, Dr. Eckert will provide the correct figure to the journal.

Below are the findings:

Article 1

- **Figure 7B:** The MEKK1 blot was fabricated. Figure 7B panels MEK6 was duplicated to create panel MEKK1.

Article 2

- **Figure 7A:** The Cytochrome C and Cox-4 signals have been falsified. the Cytochrome C blots has a weak signal in the cytosol fraction at TIG3 (1-164) that was erased in the final figure. TIG3 (124-164) has also a weak signal in the cytosol fraction that was dramatically increased in the final figure. For the Cox-4 blot, the bands used in the final figure do not correspond to a Cox-4 Western blot but an α-actin Western blot and the experimental conditions do not even correspond to the one shown in the final Figure 7A.
- **Figure 1 (right panel):** The Western blot in Figure 1 has been falsified, for example the same blot has been replicated three times and a brush tool has been used to conceal splices and create a slightly different background that looks less identical when compared with contiguous wells.
- **Figure 1C (left panel):** Figure 1C has been fabricated. The experimental condition TIG3 (1-134) has a background identical to condition TIG3 (100-164). Also, the bands seen in TIG3 (100-164) are duplicated from TIG3 (41-164) and slightly modified during the copy and paste process to make them look slightly different.

Sincerely,

Dr. Roger J. Ward, EdD, JD, MSL, MPA
Provost & Executive Vice President

Cc: Dean Mark T. Gladwin, Dean of the School of Medicine
Stephan Vigues, Research Integrity Officer