

STATEMENT OF DR. DEBORAH KELLY:

There are ongoing confidential proceedings relating to the papers proposed for retraction. Out of respect for the processes that govern those proceedings, I consider substantive discussion about them to be premature at this juncture. I have provided to the relevant journals all original data in my possession supporting the findings presented in these papers. As evidence of the premature actions taken, or proposed to be taken by certain journals, at least one external review has very recently contradicted the conclusions of the journals as presented in the respective retraction notices.

Accordingly, I remain confident that the ultimate results of these ongoing proceedings will confirm that the findings and data presented in these papers remain accurate, reliable, and scientifically sound. To date, I am under no restrictions imposed upon my research and no such restrictions are anticipated. I remain dedicated to ethical research, will cooperate with inquiries concerning my research, and will continue to uphold the highest ethical standards in all my future research endeavors.

Sincerely,

Dr. Deborah Kelly