The Fibronectin RGD Motif Is Required for Multiple Angiogenic Events During Early Embryonic Development

Seiichiro Takahashi, Markus Moser, Eloi Montanez, Takanari Nakano, Makoto Seo, Steffen Backert, Ikuo Inoue, Takuya Awata, Sigehiro Katayama, Tsugikazu Komoda, Reinhard Fässler

Retraction

For the paper by Seiichiro Takahashi, Markus Moser, Eloi Montanez, Takanari Nakano, Makoto Seo, Steffen Backert, Ikuo Inoue, Takuya Awata, Sigehiro Katayama, Tsugikazu Komoda, and Reinhard Fässler (The fibronectin RGD motif is required for multiple angiogenic events during early embryonic development. Arterioscler Thromb Vasc Biol. 2009 August 27 [Epub ahead of print]; DOI: 10.1161/ATVBAHA.108.181164), after an investigation by the Saitama Medical University Internal Investigation Committee, the Committee concluded that it was unethical for Dr. Takahashi to publish this paper for the following reasons:

1. Dr. Takahashi admitted that he forged the signatures of coauthors Markus Moser, Eloi Montanez, and Reinhard Fässler that appeared on the Authorship Responsibility and Copyright Transfer Agreement.
2. Signatures of the other coauthors were made by themselves, not by Dr. Takahashi.
3. None of the Japanese coauthors knew before publication that the signatures of Dr. Moser, Dr. Montanez, and Dr. Fässler were forged by Dr. Takahashi.
4. None of the coauthors advised Dr. Takahashi that the signatures of Dr. Moser, Dr. Montanez, and Dr. Fässler should be faked by Dr. Takahashi.
5. Neither Dr. Moser, Dr. Montanez, nor Dr. Fässler read the submitted version of original manuscript.
6. Some of the Japanese coauthors did not check the boxes that appear on 1-E of the Authorship Responsibility and Copyright Transfer Agreement. In such cases, Dr. Takahashi did that instead, without permission.
7. Dr. Takahashi sent an e-mail message to Dr. Moser, Dr. Montanez, and Dr. Fässler, using fake e-mail addresses, to pretend that the German coauthors knew about the paper. Some of the Japanese coauthors believed this message and signed the Authorship Responsibility and Copyright Transfer Agreement.

The editors, therefore, hereby retract the paper.

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Arterioscler Thromb Vasc Biol is available at http://atvb.ahajournals.org DOI: 10.1161/ATVBAHA.108.181164
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Arterioscler Thromb Vasc Biol. published online August 27, 2009;
Arteriosclerosis, Thrombosis, and Vascular Biology is published by the American Heart Association, 7272 Greenville Avenue, Dallas, TX 75231
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Print ISSN: 1079-5642. Online ISSN: 1524-4636

The online version of this article, along with updated information and services, is located on the World Wide Web at:
http://atvb.ahajournals.org/content/early/2009/09/15/ATVBAHA.108.181164.citation

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Editorial Expression of Concern

On August 27, 2009, we published ahead of print a study by Seiichiro Takahashi, Markus Moser, Eloi Montanez, Takanari Nakano, Makoto Seo, Steffen Backert, Ikuo Inoue, Takuya Awata, Sigehiro Katayama, Tsugikazu Komoda, and Reinhard Fässler (The fibronectin RGD motif is required for multiple angiogenic events during early embryonic development. Arterioscler Thromb Vasc Biol. 2009 August 27 Epub ahead of print; DOI: 10.1161/ATVBAHA.108.181164). It has come to our attention that there is an allegation of mismanagement of coauthorship. An investigation is under way, and appropriate action will be taken on completion.
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