

Notice of Retraction

Baijun Fang, Yufu Li, Yongping Song and Ning Li, Isolation and characterization of multipotent progenitor cells from the human fetal aorta wall. *Experimental Biology and Medicine* **235**:130–138, 2010.

One of our readers contacted us to indicate that an article by Fang *et al.* (*EBM* 235:130-138, 2010), published in *Experimental Biology and Medicine* (*EBM*), contains a figure (Figure 3) that had previously been published in *Biotechnology Letters* (31:929–938, 2009, Figure 3).

Inspection of these figures by Steven Goodman, Editor-in-Chief of *EBM*, the handling *EBM* Associate Editor (Mark Magnuson), the Editor of *Biotechnology Letters* (Colin Ratledge) and the *EBM* Asian Editor (Huan Yao Lei) all concluded that the problem went beyond redundant publication as the labels in Figure 3 within the *EBM* and *Biotechnology Letters* publications had been changed on micrographs that are otherwise identical.

As this was potentially a case of research misconduct the EIC referred the case to the authors' Institutions for their review. President Depei Liu, of the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences and Peking Union Medical College, wrote to Dr Goodman on June 3, 2011, after several months of internal investigation. The investigation determined that this is a case of scientific misconduct and recommended that *EBM* should retract the paper.

In the Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals, formulated by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) it is stated: 'If substantial doubt arises about the honesty or integrity of work, either submitted or published, it is the editor's responsibility to ensure that the question is appropriately pursued, usually by the authors' sponsoring institution. Ordinarily, it is not the responsibility of the editor to conduct a full investigation or to make a determination – that responsibility lies with the institution where the work was done or with the funding agency. The editor should be promptly informed of the final decision, and if a fraudulent paper has been published, the journal must print a retraction.'

EBM conforms to the ICMJE Uniform Requirements and, therefore, at the request of the President of the Peking Union Medical College, we formally retract the article by Fang *et al.* (*EBM* 235:130-138, 2010).

We have sent correspondence to all authors, the Editor of *Biotechnology Letters* – where prior publication of the figure took place – the President of the Peking Union Medical College, and the President of Zengzhou University to tell them in advance of the action that was being taken by the journal.

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