

## Characterization of Methyltransferase Properties of *Escherichia coli* YabC Protein with an Enzyme-Coupled Colorimetric Assay

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**Retraction Statement See Next Page**

## Retraction Statements

Paper by Gu and Ye [2010;19:105–116]

We wish to retract our paper entitled ‘Characterization of Methyltransferase Properties of *Escherichia coli* YabC Protein with an Enzyme-Coupled Colorimetric Assay’ that was published in the *Journal of Molecular Microbiology and Biotechnology* [2010;19:105–116]. Dr. Elaine Newman, with whom Dr. Gu served as a postdoctoral fellow, has pointed out to us that a part of the contents of our paper, specifically that dealing with the functional assignment of the *yabB* gene product, was her idea and hypothesis. Although our paper focused on aspects that differed from those proposed by Dr. Newman, we acknowledge that a significant part of the intellectual material presented stemmed from her. Further, preliminary experiments that led to the results reported were conducted in Dr. Newman’s laboratory. We did generally acknowledge her support of the work in the Acknowledgement section of our paper, but we want to apologize for not adequately citing the scope of her contribution. While the publishers, editors and reviewers have been in agreement that our paper represents a significant contribution to the scientific literature, we have now decided to comply with Dr. Newman’s request that our paper be retracted. We are doing this in order to avoid further argument about this issue. We sincerely appreciate the efforts of the publishers, editors and reviewers and wish to apologize, particularly to Dr. Newman, for the inconvenience and frustration caused by the publication of our paper.

*Chunjiang Ye, Jingsong Gu*

It is flattering to hear that the publishers, editors, and reviewers are in agreement that this paper, most of which derives from ideas and experiments from my lab, represents a significant contribution to the scientific literature. My long-standing policy, however, has been to publish my work and ideas under my own name and those of my collaborators when we collectively decide that this would be appropriate.

Neither Dr. Gu, who was a postdoctoral fellow in my lab in 2005 at Concordia University, nor Dr. Ye, has ever asked me for strains or chemicals, nor have I sent them any, *metK84* included, although all the strains mentioned in the paper are in my collection.

*E.B. Newman*

Journals serve as a forum for debate. No journal can claim that every detail of every publication is correct, nor that everyone involved has been adequately acknowledged. However, by publishing these results, Karger has fulfilled their responsibility to the scientific community. In a process of trial and error, the scientific method can correct any mistakes that have been published. It is a time-consuming process, but the only one we have.

*Milton Saier, Editor-in-Chief*