

Retraction Statement

Paper by Philipp Jungebluth, Bernhard Holzgraefe, Mei Ling Lim, Adil Doganay Duru, Vanessa Lundin, Nina Heldring, Oscar P.B. Wiklander, Joel Z. Nordin, Michael Chrobok, Christoph Roderburg, Sebastian Sjöqvist, Björn Anderstam, Antonio Beltrán Rodríguez, Johannes C. Haag, Ylva Gustafsson, Katharina G. Roddewig, Petra Jones, Matthew J.A. Wood, Tom Luedde, Ana I. Teixeira, Ola Hermanson, Ola Winqvist, Håkan Kalzén, Samir El Andaloussi, Evren Alici, and Paolo Macchiarini entitled “Autologous Peripheral Blood Mononuclear Cells as Treatment in Refractory Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome” [Respiration 2015;90:481–492; DOI: 10.1159/000441799]

The article “Autologous Peripheral Blood Mononuclear Cells as Treatment in Refractory Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome” [Respiration 2015;90:481–492; DOI: 10.1159/000441799] by Philipp Jungebluth, Bernhard Holzgraefe, Mei Ling Lim, Adil Doganay Duru, Vanessa Lundin, Nina Heldring, Oscar P.B. Wiklander, Joel Z. Nordin, Michael Chrobok, Christoph Roderburg, Sebastian Sjöqvist, Björn Anderstam, Antonio Beltrán Rodríguez, Johannes C. Haag, Ylva Gustafsson, Katharina G. Roddewig, Petra Jones, Matthew J.A. Wood, Tom Luedde, Ana I. Teixeira, Ola Hermanson, Ola Winqvist, Håkan Kalzén, Samir El Andaloussi, Evren Alici, and Paolo Macchiarini has been retracted by the Publisher and the Editor.

In 2018, the Vice Chancellor of Karolinska Institutet informed the journal that an institutional investigation

found that the research in the article constituted scientific misconduct. The journal was asked to withdraw the article on this basis.

At the time it was concluded by the journal that “We believe that, based on the evidence available to the journal, we are not in the position to make a judgement on the whether or not to retract this article” [1]. The letter from Karolinska Institutet regarding the investigation into the article and the response to the letter by three of the authors of the original article was published [1].

Karolinska Institutet found that the article is “based on data produced through scientific misconduct during the clinical research process. Even though the published paper as such obtained an ethical permit, the underlying research did not” [1]. Karolinska Institutet found that the research “lacked any biological hypothesis based on ei-

ther in vitro or in vivo (animal) data. The notebook also lacks notes on any advance discussion of the risks and benefits of the treatment, the theory on which it was based, the results of preclinical or other studies demonstrating effect, and safety; nor of any discussion that followed from the deterioration of the patient's condition, in spite of which it was decided to continue the experimental treatment. This contravenes articles 14, 16, 17, and 21 of the 2013 Declaration of Helsinki (articles 31, 21, 18, and 12 of the 2008 version).” [1]

Upon re-evaluation of the case and in line with the Committee on Publication Ethics Guidelines for Retractions recommending that “Editors should consider re-

tracting a publication if [...] it reports unethical research” [2], we are retracting this article.

Ana I. Teixeira, Adil Duru and Vanessa Lundin agree with this retraction. The remaining authors did not respond or could not be reached for comment within the timeframe given.

References

- 1 Herth FJF: How Journals Treat Scientific Misconduct Allegations: Should Articles Be Retracted? *Respiration* 2018;96:98–110. DOI: 10.1159/000489981.
- 2 COPE Council. COPE Retraction guidelines – English. <https://doi.org/10.24318/cope.2019.1.4>