

RETRACTION

Retraction: Arg tyrosine kinase modulates TGF- β 1 production in human renal tubular cells under high-glucose conditions

Barbara Torsello, Cristina Bianchi, Chiara Meregalli, Vitalba Di Stefano, Lara Invernizzi, Sofia De Marco, Giorgio Bovo, Rinaldo Brivio, Guido Strada, Silvia Bombelli and Roberto A. Perego

Journal of Cell Science is retracting *J. Cell Sci.* (2016) **129**, 2925-2936 (doi:10.1242/jcs.183640). This notice updates the Correction (doi:10.1242/jcs.238832) relating to the above-referenced article.

Following the publication of a correction concerning Figs 5E, 6A and 7A, members of the community highlighted that Professor Fulvio Magni, who had been assigned by the Dean of the School Medicine and Surgery to oversee problems related to research in the absence of a research integrity office, and who investigated this case on behalf of the University Milano-Bicocca, had co-authored articles with the corresponding author.

New concerns were also raised regarding a possible splice in Fig. 4B and band duplication in Fig. 4F. Original data provided by the corresponding author, Professor Roberto Perego, before acceptance in 2016 when the paper was first investigated, were at low resolution; higher resolution images of replicate experiments were also provided. Re-inspection of the data for Fig. 4F led to the conclusion that the image was of too poor quality to conclusively match it to the published figure, or to confirm or exclude band duplication. For Fig. 4B, the original data could not rule out any inappropriate manipulation, and the relative alignment of the rows of bands in the original full blot was inconsistent, raising further concerns.

Journal of Cell Science contacted the institute to request another independent investigation of the case, including these two new concerns.

Professor Guido Cavaletti the Vice-Rector (Research) at the University of Milano-Bicocca, nominated a committee of three independent experts working at external institutions to investigate this case. Once the committee completed its investigation, Journal of Cell Science was sent the report, which stated:

‘We have carefully checked the details of the experiments reported in the [paper]. We could not individuate a possible explanation and ensure that the data reported are derived from the same gel used. However, it seems to us that there is no intentional alteration of the results.’

They further stated that as the corresponding author has replicates for the experiments in question, he should supply replacement figures. They also confirmed that the conclusions of the paper were confirmed by the original data.

Unfortunately, the journal found that neither this report, nor the original data or explanation supplied by the corresponding author, adequately addressed our concerns about suspected inappropriate image manipulation. We are therefore retracting this paper.