

Publication Fraud

Images

NRIN Leiden October 17, 2025

Dr. Marcel AG van der Heyden
Department of Medical Physiology

Study, Teach, Advise on Research Integrity in Life Sciences

UMC Utrecht



RILS
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Teach
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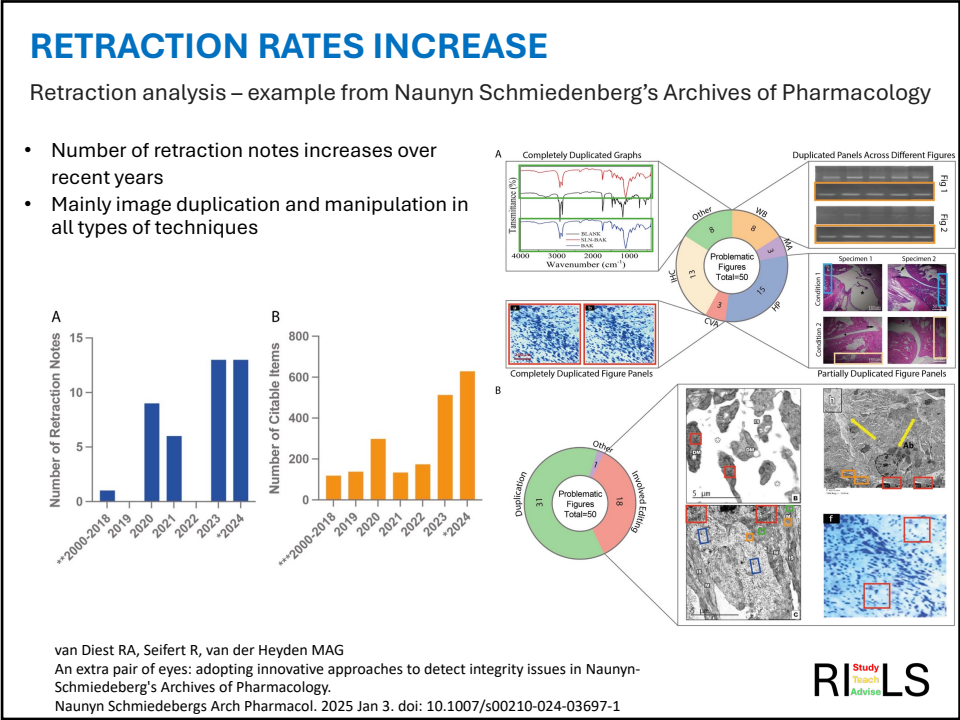


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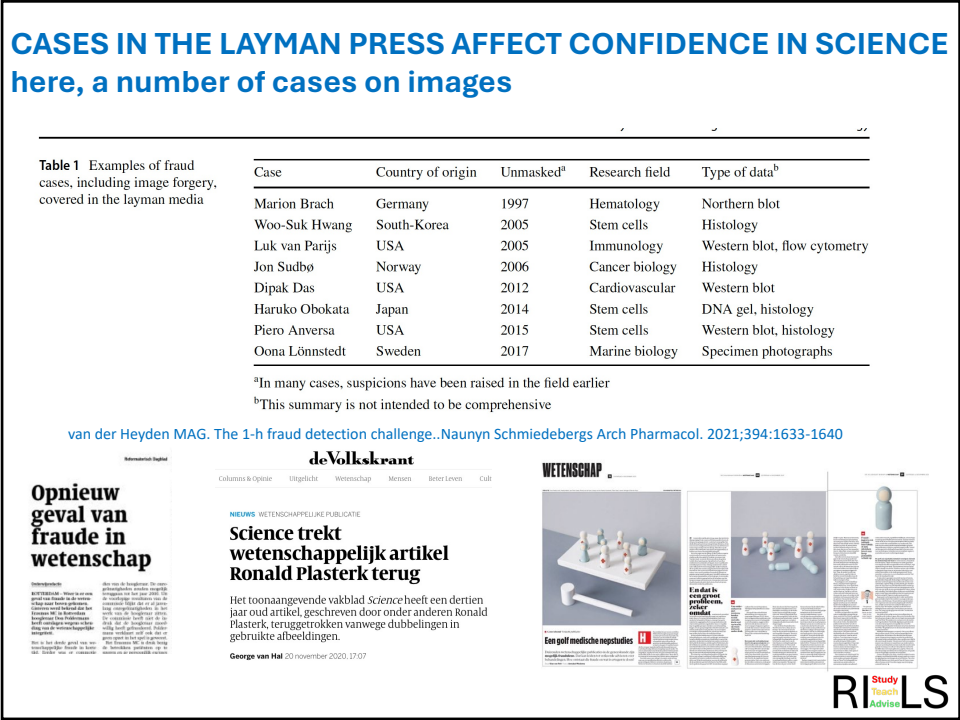
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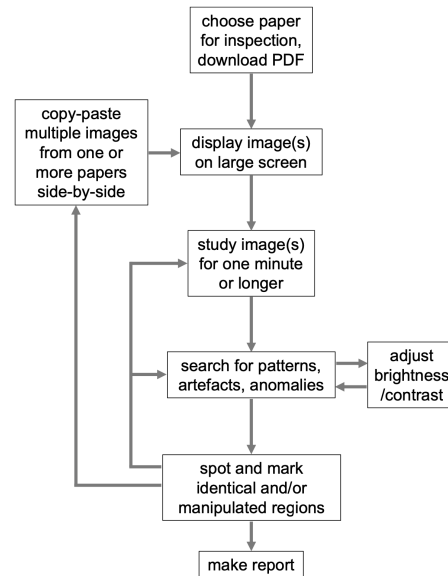
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DETECTING AND REPORTING POTENTIAL PUBLICATION FRAUD

- Journals, editors, reviewers
- Integrity sleuths
- Whistleblowers



Neuropsychopharmacology Archives of Pharmacology
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s00210-021-02120-3>

REVIEW

The 1-h fraud detection challenge

Marcel A. G. van der Heyden¹²

Fig. 1 Flow diagram depicting subsequent steps and loops used in image fraud detection endeavors

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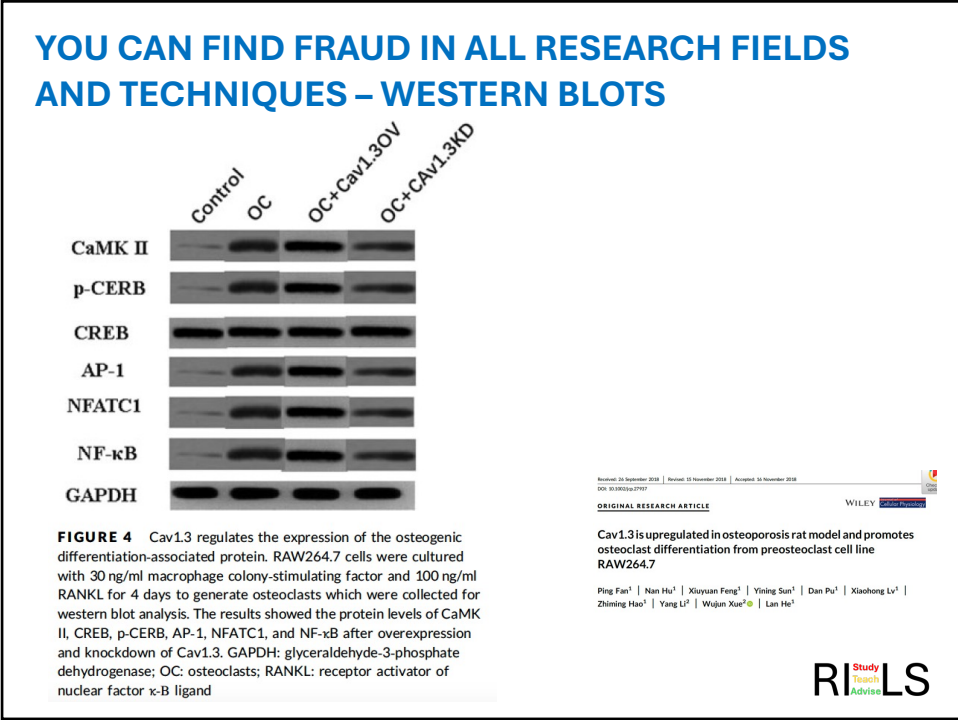
YOU CAN FIND IMAGE MODIFICATIONS EVERYWHERE



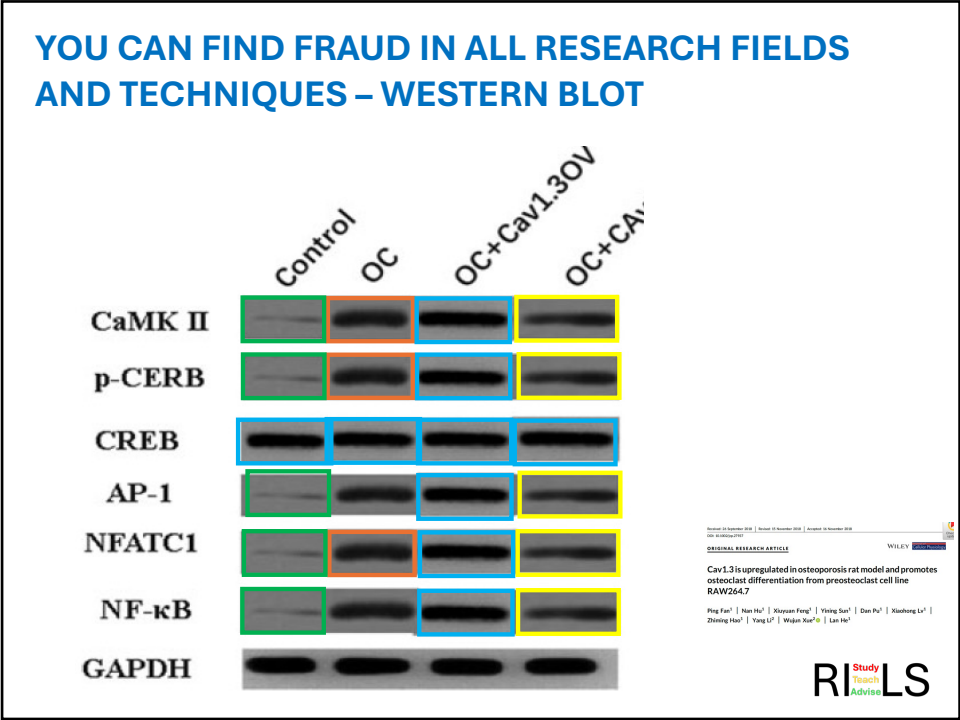
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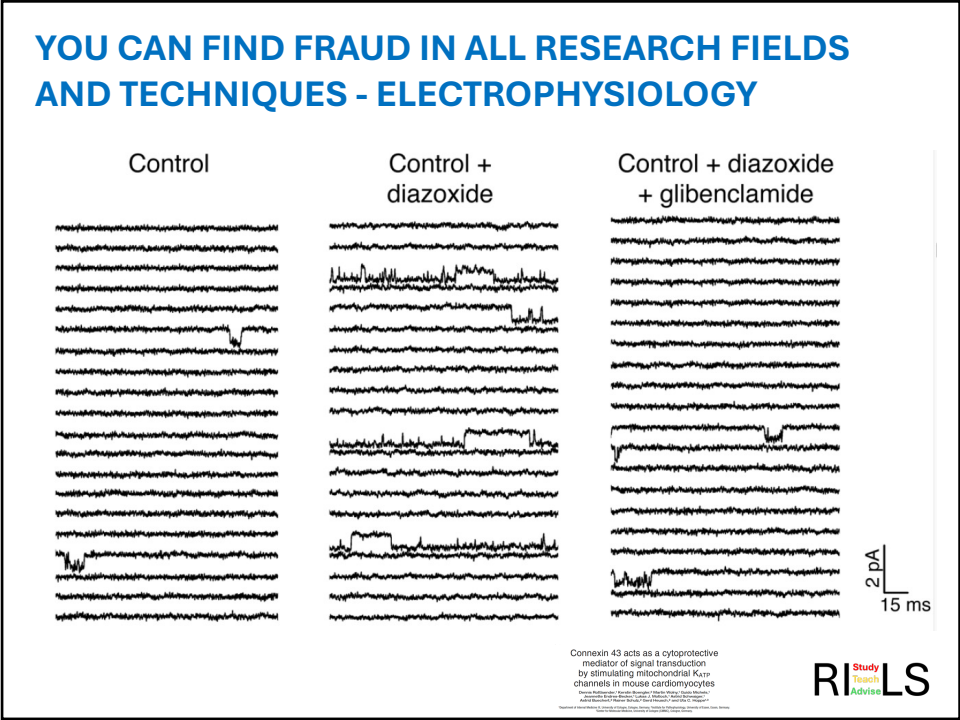
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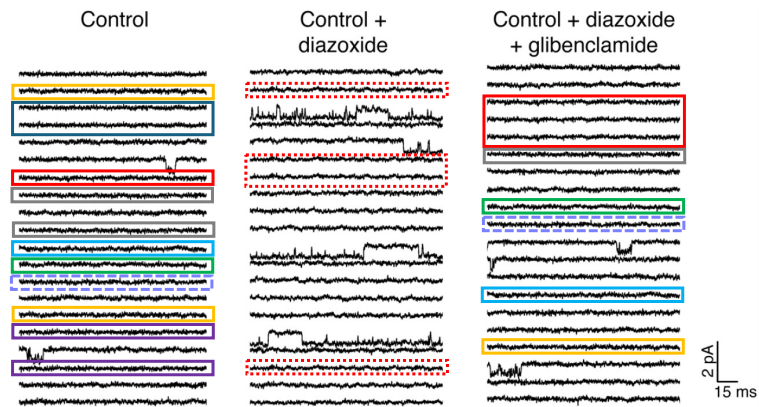


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YOU CAN FIND FRAUD IN ALL RESEARCH FIELDS AND TECHNIQUES - ELECTROPHYSIOLOGY



Connexin 43 acts as a cytoprotective mediator of signal transduction by stimulating mitochondrial K_{ATP} channels in mouse cardiomyocytes

Donata Radenkovic, "Connexin 43 acts as a cytoprotective mediator of signal transduction by stimulating mitochondrial K_{ATP} channels in mouse cardiomyocytes", *Journal of Cellular Biochemistry*, 2010, 117, 1-10, doi:10.1002/jcb.22444

Department of Medicine, University of Illinois, Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, 60607-7137, USA

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YOU CAN FIND FRAUD IN ALL RESEARCH FIELDS AND TECHNIQUES – ELECTRON MICROSCOPY

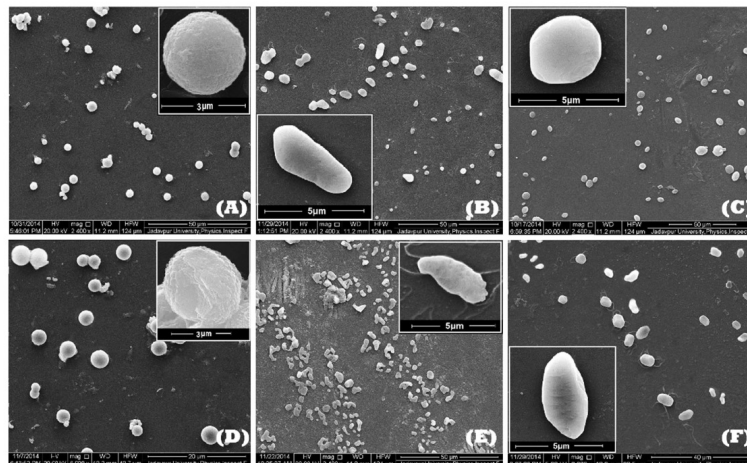


Fig. 1 Scanning electron microscopic view of RBC. **a** Normal diet fed control group; **b** Normal diet fed nicotine-treated group; **c** Normal diet fed nicotine- and curcumin-treated group; **d** Restricted diet fed

control group; **e** Restricted diet fed nicotine-treated group; **f** Restricted diet fed nicotine- and curcumin-treated group

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**YOU CAN FIND FRAUD IN ALL RESEARCH FIELDS
AND TECHNIQUES – ELECTRON MICROSCOPY**

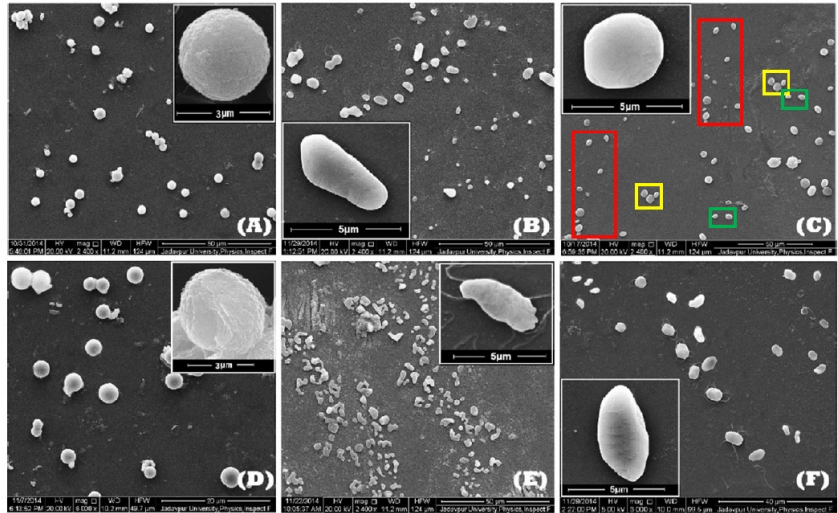


Figure 1 Maita et al., Mol Biol Rep 2015;42:1623-1637

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**YOU CAN FIND FRAUD IN ALL RESEARCH FIELDS
AND TECHNIQUES – X-RAYS**

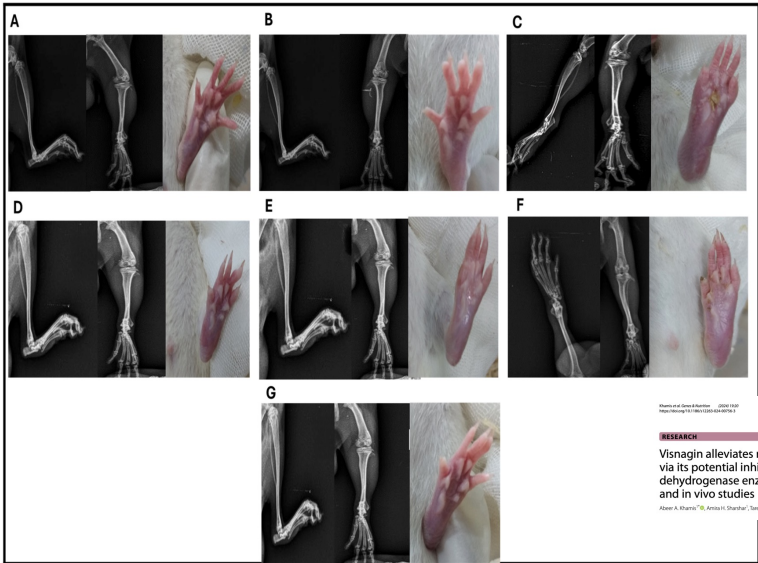
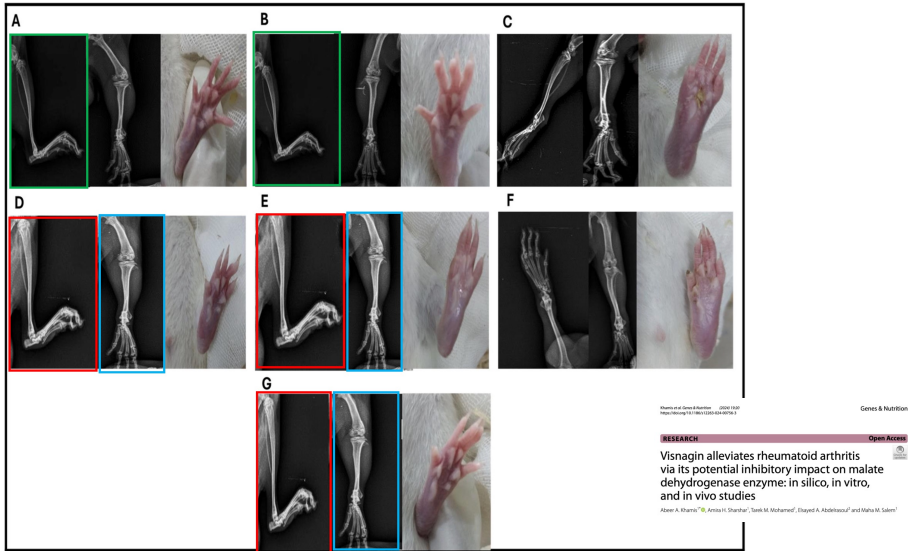


Fig. 5 Live imaging and X-ray examination of animals. **A** normal group, **B** VIS control group, **C** RA untreated group, **D** MTX treated group, **E** VIS prophylactic group, **F** VIS post-treated group, **G** VIS/MTX combination group

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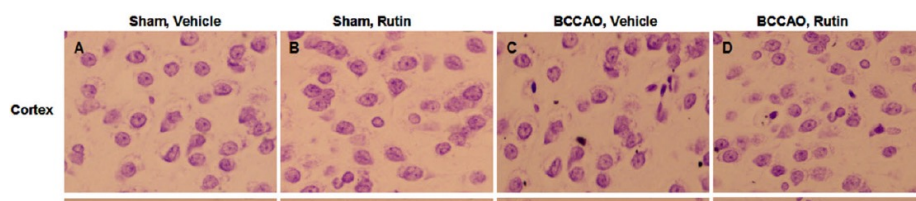
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YOU CAN FIND FRAUD IN ALL RESEARCH FIELDS AND TECHNIQUES – X-RAYS



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DEATH BY PHOTOSHOP



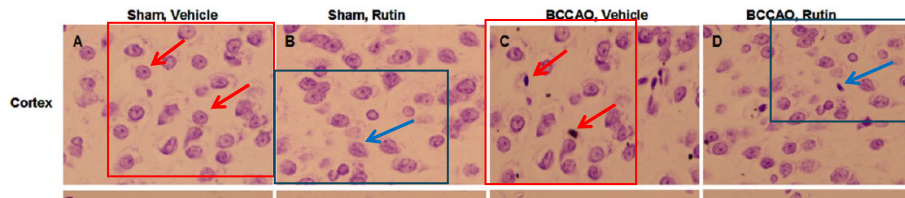
Qu et al. Brit J Pharmacol 2014;171:3702-3715

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DEATH BY PHOTOSHOP

Figure 9A-D

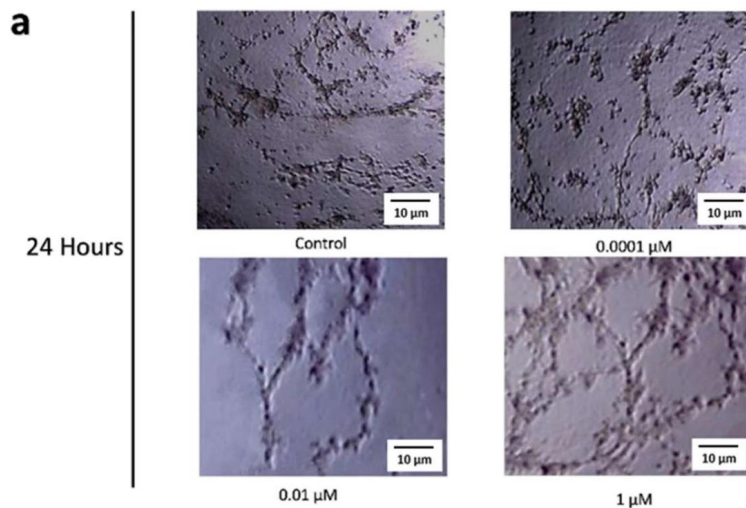


Qu et al. Brit J Pharmacol 2014;171:3702-3715

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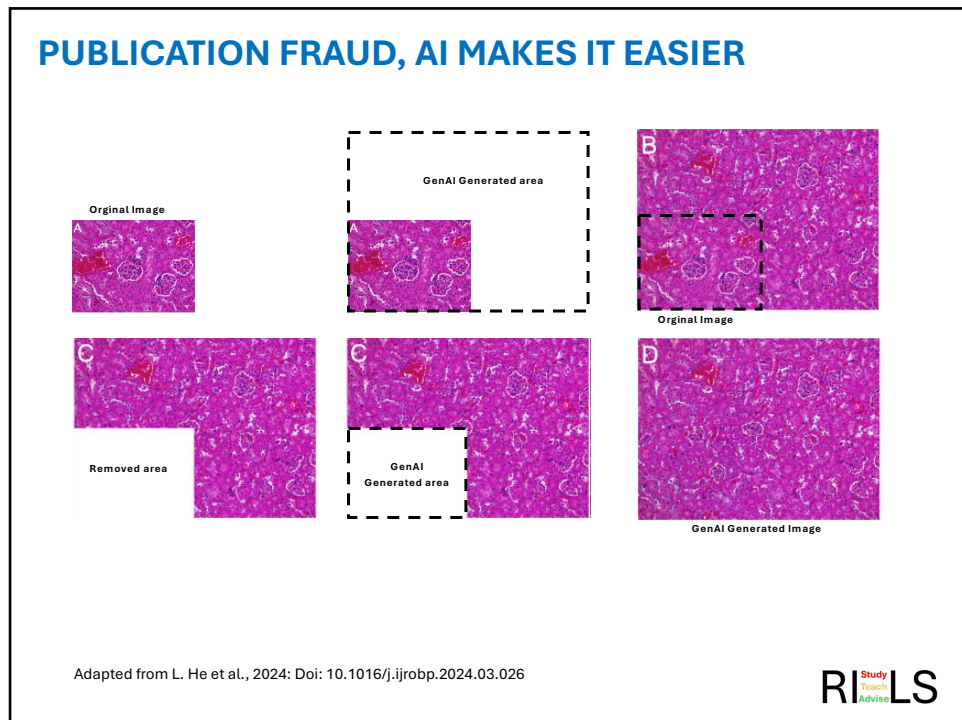
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YOU CAN FIND FRAUD IN ALL RESEARCH FIELDS AND TECHNIQUES – OLD FASHIONED PHOTOSHOP

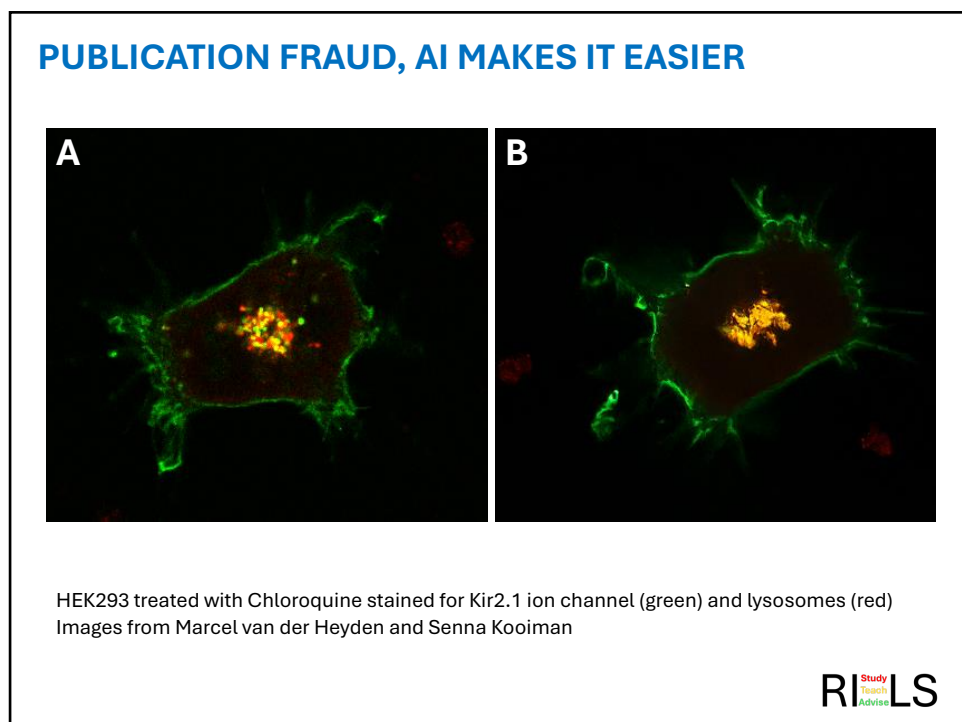


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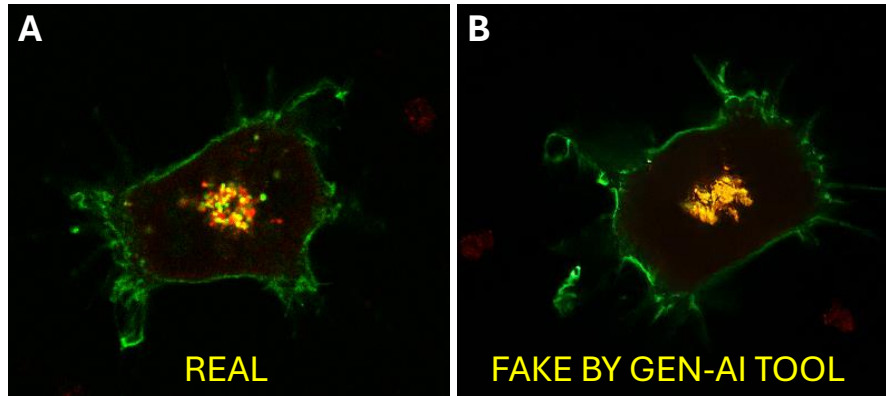


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PUBLICATION FRAUD, AI MAKES IT EASIER



HEK293 treated with Chloroquine stained for Kir2.1 ion channel (green) and lysosomes (red)
Images from Marcel van der Heyden and Senna Kooiman+GEN-AI Expand tool Photoshop

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**CAN AND SHOULD YOU REPORT
AND HOW?**

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CODE OF CONDUCT

3.7 Standards that are applicable to all phases of research

59. Call attention to other researchers' non-compliance with the standards as well as inadequate institutional responses to non-compliance, if there is sufficient reason for doing so.



Doing nothing is not an option

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REPORTING POTENTIAL PUBLICATION FRAUD

Pubpeer
website

The PubPeer database contains all articles.

Search for DOI, PMID, arXiv ID, keyword, author, etc.

advanced search

To leave the first comment on a specific article, paste a unique identifier such as a DOI, PubMed ID, or arXiv ID into the search bar.

Recently commented publications (208450)

12 seconds ago	Exome-wide analysis identifies three low-frequency missense variants associated with pancreatic cancer risk in Chinese populations Jiang Chang, Jianbo Tian, Ying Zhu, Rong Zhong, Kan Zhai, Jiaoyuan Li, Juntao Ke, QiangQiang Han, Jiao Lou, Wei Chen, Beibei Zhu, Na Shen, Yi Zhang, Yajie Gong, Yang Yang, Danyi Zou, Xiating Peng, Zhi Zhang, Xuemei Zhang, Kun Huang, Ming Yang, Li Wang, Chen Wu, Dongxin Lin, Xiaoping Miao	Author response
	Nature Communications (2018)	2 comments
23 seconds ago	Sol-gel derived SnO₂/Ag₂O ceramic nanocomposite for H₂ gas sensing applications Vahid Salimian Rizi, Fariborz Sharifianjazi, Hassan Jafarikhorami, Nader Parvin, Leyla Saei Fard, Mohammad Irani, Amirhossein Esmailkhanian	
	Materials Research Express (2018)	4 comments
1 minute ago	Mixed lineage kinase ZAK promotes epithelial-mesenchymal transition in cancer progression Linna Li, Ning Su, Ting Zhou, Dayong Zheng, Zheng Wang, Haoyu Chen, Shoujun Yuan, Wenliang Li	Author response
	Cell Death & Disease (2018)	3 comments
1 minute ago	Stochastic multi-objective modelling and optimization of an energy-conscious distributed permutation flow shop scheduling problem with the total tardiness constraint Yaping Fu, Guangdong Tian, Amir Mohammad Fathollahi-Fard, Abbas Ahmadi, Chaoyong Zhang	

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REPORTING POTENTIAL PUBLICATION FRAUD

- Anonymous (often)
- Toxic persons

AMPK is critical for mitochondrial function during reperfusion after myocardial ischemia

Journal of Molecular and Cellular Cardiology (2016) - 1 Comment
pubmed: 26746142 doi: 10.1016/j.yjmcc.2015.12.032 issn: 1095-8584 issn: 0022-2828

Vlad G. Zaha, Dake Qi, Kevin N. Su, Monica Palmeri, Hui-Young Lee, Xiaoyue Hu, Xiaohong Wu, Gerald I. Shulman, Peter S. Rabinovitch, Raymond R. Russell, Lawrence H. Young

#1 *Cortinarius sanguineus* comment accepted December 2024

Repeated image below:

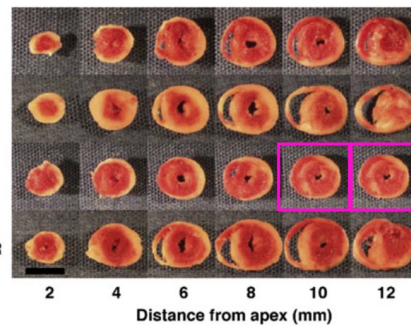
C.

WT IR

KD IR

MCAT IR

KD-MCAT IR



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REPORTING POTENTIAL PUBLICATION FRAUD

(Anonymous) mails
to journals

From: Anonymous Researcher <Researcher-123@outlook.com>

Sent: Friday, 27 December 2024 4:07 pm

To: BJPedoffice <bjpedoffice@wiley.com>; Gan, Vangie - <britjpharmacol@wiley.com>

Subject: Anonymous Concern Regarding Ethical Approval for Submitted Manuscript

 This is an external email.

Dear Editor,

I hope this message finds you well. I have no intention of offending anyone.

I am reaching out anonymously because I have come across a submission to your journal that raises potential concerns about ethical compliance. The title of this article is "XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX."

Specifically, the authors mention using human blood samples, yet the cited ethics approval number appears to have been borrowed from other different studies and different diseases. Please refer to **Attachment 01** and **Attachment 02** for details. And no corresponding record seems to exist in the relevant official ethics registry.

In the interest of safeguarding research integrity and the rights of study participants, I respectfully recommend that the editorial office verify the manuscript's ethical documentation. Below are several points that may warrant closer review:

1. Authenticity and Relevance of the Approval Document
2. Registration on an Official Ethics Website
3. Explanation of the Discrepancy

I trust that your journal's commitment to high ethical standards will guide a thorough verification process. By asking authors to clarify these points, you can help ensure the publication adheres to best practices and upholds the rights of human participants.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

An Anonymous Researcher Concerned About Ethical Standards

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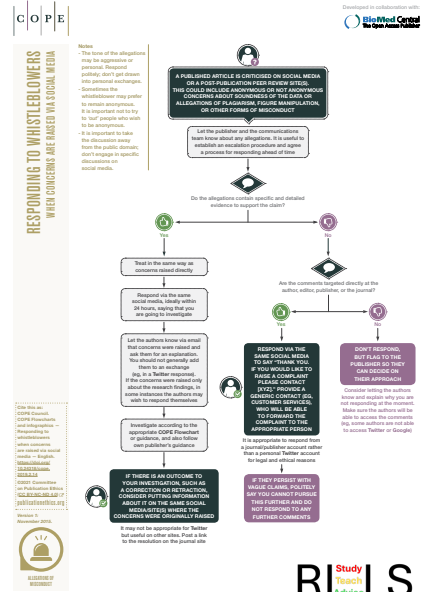
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JOURNAL ACTIONS AND COPE REGULATIONS

- Genuine journals are associated with COPE (Committee of Publication Ethics)
- Most publishers have an ethics department
- Many journals have integrity advisors on their editorial boards
- They need to start an investigation in response to an accusation
- In a full investigation, authors will be asked for explanations
- The associated research institute may be informed



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THANK YOU!



View on the Oude Gracht Utrecht with Domtowers

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