



LUND
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Research Misconduct Review Board

Assignment as expert concerning a full investigation of suspected research misconduct

Background

On 4 August 2017, Lund University received a report about suspected research misconduct.

The report was filed by doctoral student Oscar Manouchehrian against Dr Linnéa Taylor. They both work at the Department of Clinical Sciences, Lund.

The suspicion of research misconduct concerns experiments whose results are intended to be presented in two papers: an abstract submitted to the congress Neuroscience 2017 and a manuscript submitted for review to the Journal of Neuroinflammation.

Regarding the abstract, the report concerns the counting of cells and thickness measurement of retinal layers in two groups of mice for which Manouchehrian and Taylor obtained different results. Manouchehrian considers that “no significant differences were found” in his statistical calculations, which were based on his cell counting. According to the report, when Taylor conducts a new cell count “a major difference in effect of tremendous significance” was obtained.

Regarding the manuscript, there is a similar issue concerning an examination of pig retinas. In the report, Manouchehrian considers that there are oddities in the cell counting results that Taylor presented in the manuscript and on other previous occasions.

The investigation can include other items identified by the investigators.

The Vice-Chancellor of Lund University assigned the Research Misconduct Review Board (hereinafter referred to as the board) with the task of investigating the suspicion and submitting a proposal for appropriate action to the Vice-Chancellor.

The board has conducted a preliminary investigation of the matter, and subsequently the Vice-Chancellor decided to launch a full investigation. The board has appointed Professor Sarah Coupland, University of Liverpool, and Professor Steffen Heegaard, Copenhagen University, to serve as the experts in the investigation.

Assignment

The aim of a full investigation is to provide documentation to support an assessment of whether research misconduct has taken place or not, based on the *Regulations on the handling of matters relating to suspected scientific misconduct in research, artistic research and development or other development work at Lund University* (STYR 2017/218, particularly sections 13–16).

The assignment of the expert is to review the material received and collected by the board, and together with any other circumstances assess whether or not research misconduct has taken place, based on the above regulations. The assignment is to conclude with a report in which the matter, grounds for assessment and conclusions are described. The report is to form a basis for the board's decision on how to proceed with the matter at hand.

All parties concerned in the matter will be given an opportunity to address the board. If possible, the experts may also attend these meetings. The expert may also contact the parties of the matter if needed to gain clarity in issues pertaining to the case, or to request additional information.

The expert's report is to be submitted to the board no later than 15 December 2017.

Conflict of interest

Please notify the board immediately if there is a conflict of interest with regard to the persons mentioned in the report, so a different expert can be appointed.

Any questions can be addressed to the undersigned chair of the board.

Kind regards



Professor Göran Sandberg
Chair

Lund University Research Misconduct Review Board

goran.sandberg@construction.lth.se
+46 46 222 81 46

Enclosures

1. Report of Suspected Scientific Misconduct, Manouchehrian 4 August 2017
2. Statement Linnéa Taylor 21 August 2017
3. Statement Linnéa Taylor 31 August 2017
4. Statement Linnéa Taylor 18 September 2017
5. Statement Linnea Taylor 21 September 2017
6. Statement Oscar Manouchehrian 22 September 2017
7. Statement Stefan Seregard 1 October 2017
8. Statement Linnea Taylor 5 October 2017
9. Statement Linnea Taylor 8 October 2017
10. Decision Vice-Chancellor 26 October 2017
11. Regulations on the handling of matters relating to suspected scientific misconduct in research, artistic research and development or other development work at Lund University (STYR/2017/218)

