

**Complaint against *Nature's* Cherry-Picking against Truth And
Discrimination against Truth-Seeking Scientists**

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HIGHLIGHT

Published here is an Open Letter that has been mailed to the CEO of Macmillan by registered mail with return receipt. Let us watch how Macmillan will handle this complaint this time.

ABSTRACT

Macmillan was brought to court last year because of the “4D” actions committed by its leading journal *Nature* (see legal document 09CY006755 filed at the Superior Court of Wake County, North Carolina, USA). However, that lawsuit was dismissed as a result of arguments made by the legal team for the Macmillan. Subsequently, *Nature* and other journals of the Nature Publication Group have become even more reckless and insolent in publishing flawed and even fraud research on the so-called induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs) that have been hyped as “ethical” and “safe” replacements for embryonic stem cells (ESCs). Now, almost every bogus claim made for iPSCs and iPS reprogramming has been invalidated by further researches and thus essentially confirmed Liu’s pioneering discoveries on the true nature of iPSCs and iPS reprogramming. But none of these confirmatory studies cited Liu’s original discoveries even though the whole iPS research field should know very well Liu’s consistent opinions because these candid opinions have even irritated many iPS researchers. More seriously, *Nature* and other top journals which have sold many invalid iPS discoveries and rejected all of Liu’s submissions on iPS research now still refuse to publish Liu’s timely and sharp observations on the progress of iPS research and protected those credit-robbery behaviors. This Open Letter shows the most recent cases and serves as a tip of iceberg for a huge misconduct committed by a flagship journal in the world of scientific publishing.

KEY WORDS

Stem cell, iPSC, ESC, Reprogramming,, Misrepresentation, Hype, Rejection, Neglect, Citation, Credit, Robbery, Misconduct, Lawsuit, 4D actions, Macmillan, Nature, NPG, Publishing, Cheating, Freedom

From:
Shi V. Liu MD PhD
Eagle Institute of Molecular Medicine

**Subject: A Formal Complaint against *Nature's*
Cherry-Picking against Truth and
Discrimination against Truth-Seeking Scientists**

June 7, 2010

Dear Ms. Thomas,

To:
Annette Thomas
CEO of Macmillan

As you may recall, your company was brought into a lawsuit when *Nature* committed “4D” actions (see legal document 09CY006755 filed at the Superior Court of Wake County, North Carolina, USA).

Although that lawsuit was ended without much reputation damage to your company it nevertheless consumed your company some significant fees.

However, it seemed that those individuals at *Nature* who have damaged the reputation of your company have not learnt any real lesson from that past experience. Instead, they have become more reckless and insolent by committing more serious misconduct.

For example, after the legal setback, *Nature* even committed a series of retrospective deletions of my previous comments offering scientific insights on some very controversial issues such as the validity of the various claims made for the iPSCs (induced pluripotent stem cells) and iPS reprogramming. By now, *Nature* has essentially deprived me of my freedom of speech and even the right to express scientific opinions. It not only systematically discriminates against my formal submissions of scientific manuscripts but also consistently prevents me from posting online comments.

Based on facts, it now can be seen very clearly that over the past three years *Nature* has played a leading role in building up a huge misrepresentation that is unprecedented in scientific history. It has spread all over the world an illusion that some scientists can reverse the biological clock and thus directly turn ANY (even terminally) differentiated adult cells back to undifferentiated embryonic cells that are “indistinguishable” from embryonic stem cells (ESCs). However, those iPSCs are merely some incorrectly programmed stem cells and the iPS reprogramming is merely a neoplastic transformation that turns pre-existing stem cells into man-made cancer stem cells (mmCSCs).

Nature's initial rejections of my above deep insight and present publishing of “new discoveries” that essentially confirmed some of my earlier discoveries but still playing an entirely wrong tune of “ethical” and “safe” replacement of ESCs by iPSCs represent its lack of scientific judgment and ethical attitude. Its later neglect of my submissions criticizing those residual mistakes and outright credit robbery contained in its repeated “discoveries” with no citation of my original discoveries just reflected the unscientific and also unethical nature of *Nature*. Even though this reflection might be some actions of a few editors, the outcome has disgraced the entire *Nature* magazine in the eyes of the scientific community.

Thus, when the politically motivated promotion of iPSCs as “ethical” and “safe” replacements for ESCs is over, *Nature* will be likely remembered in scientific history as a journal aggressively suppressing truth and spreading misrepresentations despite having previously been informed on the actual truth. It will be known to the whole world as the strongest reverse “cherry-picking” magazine – a magazine that selectively eliminates submissions containing truthful information and instead keeps publishing manuscripts filled with misunderstandings and misrepresentations.

Now, a very recent submission of mine is being neglected by *Nature*. The submitted manuscript is entitled “**Partial recognition of incorrectly programmed stem cells (iPSCs) by *Nature***”. It was received by *Nature* and recorded as Manuscript No. 2010-05-06653. This manuscript congratulated the partial recognition of the incorrect programming of iPSCs by the *Nature* publication and pointed out more misunderstandings contained in that publication. By all standards this manuscript is a very worthy Communications Arising and should be published without any delay.

To make sure that *Nature* will not neglect this important submission I sent Editor-in-chief Phillip Campbell and publishing executive editor Maxine Clarke an email, urging them to pay attention to this submission and get involved in making a decision on it. However, within 2 hours of my emailing, the manuscript was taken out from the manuscript tracking system without any notice. My email to these two editors asking for a reason has not been responded yet after two days.

Besides *Nature* some other journals within the Nature Publishing Group (NGP) of your company have also engaged in the rejection of truth and then allowing credit robbery relating my insightful discoveries on iPSCs and iPS reprogramming. The most recent such incidences can be represented by the rejection of my Correspondence “**A confirmation of my earlier conclusions on iPS reprogramming and iPSCs**” (NBT-L24081) by *Nature Biotechnology* on the ground of no sufficient general interest even though this journal is continuing publishing papers on this very topic. As a matter of fact, while I was protesting that rejection, *Nature Biotechnology* published another “discovery” which followed by published research protocol and reached a same conclusion contained in many of my publications on iPSCs including a peer-reviewed world-first critical review on iPSCs published in *Stem Cells and Development*. Thus, I

submitted another Correspondence “**Another confirmation of my earlier discoveries on iPSCs and iPS reprogramming**” (NBT-L24133) to *Nature Biotechnology*. I requested *Nature Biotechnology* to give me an answer to my protest to the rejection of NBT-L24081 and wish it will quickly publish both Correspondences. However, so far I have not received any response.

Thus, I must report these severe incidents to you and also inform the whole world by publishing this letter as an Open Letter. I wish that you will establish a committee to formally investigate these incidents and a series of related prior incidents. I demand that you will request to *Nature* and *Nature Biotechnology* to quickly publish my above submitted manuscripts. Otherwise, I will hold you and the MacMillan Company also responsible for suppressing truth and disseminating misrepresentations while disregarding basic human rights such as the freedom of speech and suppressing truthful information along with discriminating against the specific individual wishing to express this information.

In closing, however, I would like to emphasize that there is even more to this incident than the severe discrimination by *Nature* against my person. It is the key point of shared responsibility towards this generation and the next one. In present times when humankind is still desperately seeking to defeat cancer disease, you, as a publisher, on the contrary, keep allowing the dissemination of data on pluripotent stem cells engineered as a result of the introduction/activation of cancer-promoting genes and even the knock-out of tumor suppressor genes (!) - and therefore not surprisingly already known to be causing tumors in experimental animals-, yet without allowing for equivalent critiques cautioning against their predictable high risks on the pages of your journals. In other words and briefly, you are actively promoting the development of man-made cancer stem cells and their planned introduction into human individuals! If you will maintain this irresponsible attitude, it is predictable that a worst-case scenario for such engineered stem cells, in particular iPS, will soon unfold, ultimately yielding a disaster surpassing by far last year’s warning by James M. Wilson in *Science* (vol. 324, pp. 727-728) and comparable in its apocalyptic dimensions to the recent subprime/Lehman Brothers financial catastrophe and the still ongoing devastating BP oil spill on the Gulf Coast. Can you therefore proceed unchecked as before despite such plausible scenario? If so, the civil society will certainly have to hold

you responsible as one of the primary culprits in the propagation of a technology that could turn out to be a major crime against humanity.

Sincerely,

Shi V. Liu MD PhD

PS

While waiting for the reviewing and revision of this Letter by my scientific and legal friends, I noticed a Press release from a recent international scientific symposium “**stem cells in biology and disease**” held in Lisbon, Portugal (<http://www.estools.eu/Lisbon>):

Press release 17-5-2010

Induced pluripotent stem cells do not fully replace embryonic stem cells as disease models

A study from ESTOOLS partner Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the Children’s Hospital in Boston has shed new light on the properties of induced pluripotent stem cells (iPS cells), reporting evidence that they may not be able to replace embryonic stem cells in some research and medical applications. The results of the study will be presented in Lisbon at the International Symposium “Stem Cells in Biology and Disease” during the workshop “Do we still need human embryonic stem cells”

See full text of the press release on this page:
<http://www.estools.eu/estools/news/latest/Press-release-17-May-2010>

This press release was based on a very recent research paper ““Differential modeling of Fragile X syndrome by human embryonic stem cells and induced pluripotent stem cells” by Achia Urbach, Ori Bar-Nur, George Q. Daley and Nissim Benvenisty which appeared in *Cell Stem Cell* (6: 407-411) on May 7, 2010. ([http://www.cell.com/cell-stem-cell/fulltext/S1934-5909\(10\)00160-8](http://www.cell.com/cell-stem-cell/fulltext/S1934-5909(10)00160-8))

This “new discovery” actually more convincingly confirmed by old discovery: iPSCs are distinct from ESCs (as accepted by the mainstream now) because they are man-made cancer cells (still disliked by the mainstream). Thus, hyping iPSCs as “ethical” and “safe” replacements for ESCs represents a severe misrepresentation and even an intentional misconduct.