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VEPACHEDU EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

The Telangana Science Journal

Health and Nutrition

TIACS-subscribe@yahoogroups.com (The Indian American Chemical Society)

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Chief Editor: Dr. Sreenivasarao Vepachedu⁽¹⁾

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Scientific Fraud⁽²⁾

There are many types of science fraud, from minor manipulation of results or incorrect causal connections to full-blown fabrication of results and plagiarism of the work of others. There have been cases of researchers stealing the work of their students to obtain all of the credit and kudos. One of the most famous science frauds of all time was a fossilized skull, allegedly the ‘missing link’ between apes and humans, discovered in a quarry in Piltdown, Sussex, England. A distinguished paleontologist, Arthur Smith Woodward, head of the Geological Department at the British Museum, declared the find authentic. It gradually came to light that it was made up from bones of at least 3 hominid species, including the jawbone of an Orangutan with filed down teeth. Woodward was the victim, linked with the fraud forever⁽³⁾.

Most US funding agencies have an inspector-general who investigates potential misconduct and fraud. These officials can withdraw grant money and impose prohibitions on receiving government funds, and often refer cases for criminal prosecution. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) includes the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the US Office of Research Integrity (ORI), which oversees probes by the institutions that employ the researchers suspected of wrongdoing. In cases where evidence of misconduct or fraud is found, the ORI can impose funding bans or refer potential criminal cases to the Department of Justice or the HHS inspector-general. The HHS inspector-general can initiate investigations of suspected research fraud or misconduct, but is often preoccupied with other matters,

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such as health-insurance fraud. The inspector-general for the National Science Foundation (NSF) has sole oversight of that agency's misconduct investigations, and is involved in several criminal prosecutions each year. Most of these concern researchers suspected of misusing grant money or of using plagiarized or falsified data to obtain funds. Formally barring a researcher from receiving federal funds is usually a professional death sentence, even if the ban is short.

Dong-Pyou Han⁽⁴⁾, a former biomedical scientist at Iowa State University in Ames, was forced to resign from Iowa State in 2013, after the university concluded that he had falsified the results of several vaccine experiments supported by grants from the US National Institutes of Health (NIH). In some cases, Han spiked rabbit blood samples with human HIV antibodies so that the vaccine seemed to have caused the animals to develop immunity to the virus. ORI has banned Han from receiving federal grants for three years, the maximum penalty that it generally imposes on junior investigators.

In 2014, Li Chen⁽⁵⁾, a postdoc in the lab of a noted gene therapy scientist Savio Woo, faked data that appeared in four published studies, four National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant applications, and a submitted manuscript that was never published. Six papers from the Woo lab were retracted from PNAS, the Journal of the National Cancer Institute, Human Gene Therapy, and Molecular Therapy in 2010. Chen was listed as an author on four of those papers. The ORI found that Chen, "intentionally, knowingly, and recklessly fabricated and falsified data reported in four (4) publications, one (1) submitted manuscript, and four (4) grant applications" that claimed to report a cure for phenylketonuria, or PKU, in mice. Chen fudged 19 figures, including images that illustrated the chromosomal locations of integration sites, reported the use of PCR to determine integration frequencies, and represented the detection of chromosomal translocations in human cells, among other fabrications. In some cases, Chen indicated that gene therapy experiments were successful when in fact the experiments were not even performed. Mount Sinai dismissed Chen after conducting its own investigation in 2010. Now the former postdoc is ineligible for grants from the NIH and can't serve on any of the agency's committees for the next three years.

Huajun Zhao⁽⁶⁾, an associate researcher in Marshall Anderson's lab at MCOW, faced a single count of economic espionage. An FBI statement reported that Zhao might have used his employment and position at MCOW to illegally acquire patented research material and taken steps to provide that material to Zhejiang University, a university in China. MCOW officials accused Zhao of copying research data without permission from Anderson's computer and deleting shared data from an MCOW computer. Zhao

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was suspended from MCOW, and has since taken up a position as associate professor at Zhejiang University.

In a study, published and then retracted by the journal *Science*⁽⁷⁾, last year UCLA political science grad student Michael LaCour found from a field trial on gay marriage that a 20-minute conversation with a house-to-house canvasser could convert huge numbers of opponents into supporters, at least if the canvassers explained they were gay and told personal stories.

There are many such frauds, but none was fined with jail time. However, on 1 July, 2015, Han was sentenced to 57 months in prison for fabricating and falsifying data in HIV vaccine trials, and was fined \$ 7.2 million and will be subject to three years of supervised release after he leaves prison. The case probably would have ended at ORI with a ban for three years, had it not drawn the attention of Senator Charles Grassley⁽⁸⁾ (Republican, Iowa), who has a history of investigating misconduct in the biomedical sciences.

Nowadays, we see a lot of articles, purported to be scientific, using telephonic interviews. However, such studies are suspect due to the fact that such interviews are unreliable and subject to change by day. In addition, such studies heavily depend on the questions posed by the researcher. For example, a recent survey of patent professionals by Intellectual Asset Management (IAM) magazine, an analysis of quality of patents granted by various patent offices by telephonic interviews is suspect, because most of the interviewees are corporate attorneys who have been using EPO as their searching authority by paying exorbitant fees for a long time. These corporate attorneys do not have exposure to the newly established ISAs such as Korean or Chinese. None of these attorneys have compared the five large ISAs to judge the quality, however they are all quick to assess the new ISAs based on the negligible experience. Now, these telephone interviews based suspect information based on the gut feelings and prejudices of conservative corporate attorneys is published as “scientific research and analysis.” The information gathered by interviews is nothing but unreliable opinions passed on as scientific research⁽⁹⁾.

Seven Best Foods

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More than 50 percent of deaths that occur every year from heart disease could have been prevented, according to a study. Smoking, obesity, high cholesterol, high blood pressure, and diabetes are main causes of death. The seven best foods to decrease your heart disease risk are: 1) Kale, 2) Pomegranate, 3) Oatmeal, 4) Quinoa, 5) Kefir, 6) Lentils, and 7) Flax Seeds and Nuts. Another list is: Black raspberries, Strawberries, Blueberries, Flax Seeds, Green Leafy Vegetables, Tomatoes and Broccoli sprouts

Nature Walk⁽¹¹⁾

More than half of the world's population lives in urban settings, and that is forecast to rise to 70 percent within a few decades. Just as urbanization and disconnection from nature have grown dramatically, so have mental disorders such as depression. city dwellers have a 20 percent higher risk of anxiety disorders and a 40 percent higher risk of mood disorders as compared to people in rural areas. People born and raised in cities are twice as likely to develop schizophrenia. A new study published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Science finds quantifiable evidence that walking in nature could lead to a lower risk of depression.

References and Notes:

1. Dr. Rao Vepachedu is the Managing Director at Cardinal Risk Management and registered patent attorney with extensive experience in the management of intellectual property and extensive experience in research and teaching. He currently works for Cardinal Intellectual Property (CIP), Cardinal Risk Management (CRM), and Cardinal Law Group (CLG). In addition, he is the president of Vepachedu Educational Foundation Inc. (www.vepachedu.org), a 501(c) (3) educational foundation. For more information visit: www.linkedin.com/in/vepachedu; <http://www.avvo.com/attorneys/60201-il-sreenivasarao-vepachedu-764535.html>, and <http://www.crm-ip.com/vepachedu.html>. Contact: svepachedu@yahoo.com or rao.vepachedu@cardinal-ip.com; www.linkedin.com/in/vepachedu and <http://www.crm-ip.com/vepachedu.html>;



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(3) Science Fraud: <https://explorable.com/science-fraud>

(4) Case Summary: Han, Dong-Pyou; <https://ori.hhs.gov/content/case-summary-han-dong-pyou>

(5) Gene Therapy Researcher Faked Data: <http://www.the-scientist.com/?articles.view/articleNo/39825/title/Gene-Therapy-Researcher-Faked-Data/>

(6) Researcher steals data: <http://www.the-scientist.com/?articles.view/articleNo/34990/title/Researcher-Steals-Cancer-Data-/>

(7) Scientific Fraud and Politics: <http://www.wsj.com/articles/scientific-fraud-and-politics-1433544688>

(8) Sen. Charles "Chuck" Grassley (R): https://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/charles_grassley/300048

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(9) Quantity over Quality at the USPTO, The Andhra Journal of Industrial News, issue 135 (1 August 2015). The EPO has once again been rated number one for patent quality among the world's largest patent offices.

Table 6. Rate the quality of the patents issued by the following agencies (operating company)

	Excellent	Very good	Good	Adequate	Poor	N/A
European Patent Office	19%	41%	21%	7%	3%	8%
Japan Patent Office	10%	25%	29%	13%	1%	27%
Korean Intellectual Property Office	5%	11%	25%	15%	4%	40%
State Intellectual Property Office (China)	2%	10%	23%	21%	16%	29%
US Patent and Trademark Office	9%	23%	35%	19%	9%	5%

Table 7. Rate the quality of the patents issued by the following agencies (NPEI)

	Excellent	Very good	Good	Adequate	Poor	N/A
European Patent Office	19%	37%	18%	10%	1%	19%
Japan Patent Office	13%	22%	27%	9%	5%	29%
Korean Intellectual Property Office	3%	6%	31%	16%	5%	39%
State Intellectual Property Office (China)	2%	3%	19%	24%	11%	40%
US Patent and Trademark Office	15%	10%	30%	25%	10%	11%

Table 8. Rate the quality of the patents issued by the following agencies (private practice)

	Excellent	Very good	Good	Adequate	Poor	N/A
European Patent Office	15%	47%	25%	5%	0%	10%
Japan Patent Office	6%	25%	37%	8%	2%	21%
Korean Intellectual Property Office	2%	18%	29%	18%	3%	31%
State Intellectual Property Office (China)	2%	12%	25%	25%	6%	30%
US Patent and Trademark Office	7%	23%	39%	18%	6%	8%

(10) 7 Healthy Foods : <http://www.health.com/health/gallery/0,,20553573,00.html>; <http://www.rd.com/slideshows/best-foods-for-your-diet/>; <http://www.mensfitness.com/nutrition/what-to-eat/7-foods-you-should-eat-every-day>; <http://www.cookinglight.com/eating-smart/nutrition-101/foods-for-women>

(11) Nature experience reduces rumination and subgenual prefrontal cortex activation: <http://www.pnas.org/content/112/28/8567.abstract>; Natural Capital Project: <http://www.naturalcapitalproject.org/index-2015.html>

Source: The primary sources cited above, New York Times (NYT), Washington Post (WP), Mercury News, Bayarea.com, Chicago Tribune, USA Today, Intellihealthnews, Deccan Chronicle (DC), the Hindu, Hindustan Times, Times of India, AP, Reuters, AFP, womenfitness.net, about.com etc.

Om! Asatoma Sadgamaya, Tamasoma Jyotirgamaya, Mrityorma Amritamgamaya, Om Shantih, Shantih, Shantih!

(Aum! Lead the world from wrong path to the right path, from ignorance to knowledge, from mortality to immortality, and peace!)

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