

Apology regarding the paper retractions

As a researcher, I am deeply ashamed of the fact that two papers of which I was an author were found to contain multiple errors and, as a result, had to be retracted. I also deeply regret the fact that as a co-author, I was not able to identify these errors beforehand and to exercise my leadership to prevent this regrettable situation, including misconduct, from occurring. I apologize wholeheartedly for the confusion and disappointment that this situation has caused.

With the retraction of the papers, there is no longer any experimental basis to support the consistency of the STAP phenomenon, and considering the discrepancies that have been pointed out recently regarding the cell genotypes, it has become increasingly difficult to call the STAP phenomenon even a promising hypothesis.

As a deputy director of our center, with responsibility for nurturing young researchers, I feel a deep responsibility for what has happened, and plan to comply with whatever decision RIKEN finally reaches regarding my own status.

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