

**REPORT OF THE FACT FINDING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT NCCS,
PUNE.**

The committee consisting of the following members met on 13th August, 2006,

Prof. G. Padmanaban	Chairman
Dr. Kanury Rao	Member
Dr. Dinakar Salunke	Member
Dr. Umesh Varshney	Member
Dr. Anil Tyagi	Member
Dr. Shekhar Mande	Member
Dr. Islam Khan	Member

to investigate the allegations, that the following papers published by Dr. Kundu and his colleagues contained manipulated data.

Hema Rangaswami, Anuradha Bulbule, and Gopal C. Kundu

“Nuclear Factor-inducing Kinase Plays a Crucial Role in Osteopontin-induced MAPK/I κ B α Kinase-dependent Nuclear Factor κ B-mediated Promatrix Metalloproteinase-9 Activation” The Journal of Biological Chemistry, 2004, Vol. 279, No. 37, pp. 38921–38935.

and

Hema Rangaswami, Anuradha Bulbule, and Gopal C. Kundu

“JNK1 Differentially Regulates Osteopontin-induced Nuclear Factor inducing Kinase/MEKK1-dependent Activating Protein-1-mediated Promatrix Metalloproteinase-9 Activation”. The Journal of Biological Chemistry, 2005, Vol. 280, No. 19, pp. 19381–19392.

The allegations were that the same blots have been used repeatedly to depict results obtained with different treatments (anonymous e.mail dated 16th May, 2006).

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Subsequently, another e.mail dated 22nd June, 2006, was received stating that the following paper also contains manipulated data.

Goutam Chakraborty, Hema Rangaswami, Shalini Jain, and Gopal C. Kundu

“Hypoxia Regulates Cross-talk between Syk and Lck Leading to Breast Cancer Progression and Angiogenesis”. The Journal of Biological Chemistry, 2006, Vol. 281, No. 16, pp. 11322–11331.

The committee has examined both the allegations very carefully. In the case of the first allegations consisting of 9 figures, each was analysed for manipulations by analyzing the original data, power point data and data presented in the papers. The committee has come to the conclusion that although some of the blots with different treatments superficially are similar, they are indeed different. The data presented in the papers are also supported by several supportive data and the committee is convinced that there is no evidence for manipulation.

The senior author of the papers, Ms. Hema Rangaswamy, came from the US and provided all the basic data. Each one of the authors was examined individually and all of them unanimously stated that there is no scope for manipulation.

Regarding the second allegation of manipulation in the following paper

Goutam Chakraborty, Hema Rangaswami, Shalini Jain, and Gopal C. Kundu

“Hypoxia Regulates Cross-talk between Syk and Lck Leading to Breast Cancer Progression and Angiogenesis”. The Journal of Biological Chemistry, 2006, Vol. 281, No. 16, pp. 11322–11331.

The committee has found that the allegations are not related to manipulation. It is based on wrong data in conflict with published information. It has been found that the presumption is wrong and an e.mail from the author of the published information clearly states that the data published by Dr. Kundu and colleagues are indeed confirmatory and there is no contradiction.

Gopal Chakraborty

