Joint Editors-in-Chief request for determination regarding papers published by Dr. Yoshitaka Fujii

April 6, 2012

Professor Kuroda, Dean, Toho University
Professor Takamatsu, Dean, Toho University
Professor Igarashi, Director, Tsukuba University Hospital
Professor Tanaka, Chairman, Department of Anesthesiology, University of Tsukuba
Professor Shintani, Director, JA Toride Medical Center
Professor Makita, Chairman, Department of Anesthesiology, JA Toride Medical Center
Professor Miyasaka, Director, Tokyo Medical and Dental University
Prof Makita, Chairman, Department of Anesthesiology, Tokyo Medical and Dental University
Professor Murakawa, Chairman, Department of Anesthesia, Fukushima Medical University
Professor Kagawa, Chairman, Department of Anesthesiology, Hyogo Prefectural Kobe Children’s Hospital
Professor Maekawa, Chairman, Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine, Kobe University

Re: Investigation into Research by Yoshitaka Fujii

Dear Professors Kuroda, Takamatsu, Igarashi, Tanaka, Shintani, Makita, Miyasaka, Makita, Murakawa, Kagawa, and Maekawa:

The undersigned Editors-in-Chief are grateful to the University of Toho for investigating the studies of Dr Yoshitaka Fujii, and note the announcement of his dismissal (http://www.toho-u.ac.jp/english/Information/march_6_2012.html).

The journal Anaesthesia has published a manuscript that appears to present overwhelming evidence that the distributions of many variables reported by Dr Fujii, in 168 published trials conducted under the auspices of your respective institutions, could not have occurred by chance (Carlisle JB, The analysis of 169 randomised controlled trials to test data integrity. Anaesthesia 2012, Epub 8 Mar 2012; http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1365–2044.2012.07128.x/full). A copy of this manuscript follows this letter. While the title of the paper states 169 papers, there is 1 duplicated reference, so the actual number of papers analyzed in the manuscript is 168.

Appendix 1 lists 193 papers published by Dr. Fujii, based on a reconciliation of Appendix 1 in the Carlisle analysis, a comprehensive Medline search, and correspondence among the undersigned Editors-in-Chief. There are 168 papers from the Carlisle analysis, and 25 not included in the Carlisle analysis. Papers not included in the Carlisle analysis are indicated with an asterisk in Appendix 1.

Appendix 2 lists the same 193 papers published by Dr. Fujii, sorted by the institution under whose auspices the research was conducted. We are turning to you for a determination of the authenticity of those papers listed in Appendix 2 as representing research attributed by Dr. Fujii in his published manuscripts to your institution.

The undersigned Editors-in-Chief intend to retract manuscripts from their respective journals based on the evidence of fraud demonstrated in the analysis by Carlisle. However, prior to retraction we wish to offer your institution the opportunity to attest to the integrity of any manuscript conducted under the auspices of your institution, as listed in Appendix 2.
For each study listed in appendix 2 we would ask your institution to state the following:

1. that the study occurred as represented in the paper;
2. that you have examined the original research data and have verified that the data are authentic; and
3. that appropriate research ethical approval for the study was obtained.

Fraudulent research must be retracted in a timely manner. If we do not hear from you by June 30 2012 we will assume that you do not intend to respond. If you do intend to respond, please provide a timeline for your assessment. This is not a confidential communication. To provide transparency to our readers, we intend to post this request letter, and your response, on our journal websites.

Please direct your response to Dr. Steven M. Yentis at s.yentis@imperial.ac.uk.

We appreciate your assistance with this request.

On behalf of our respective journals,

Lars S. Rasmussen  
Editor-in-Chief, *Acta Anaesthesiologica Scandinavica*

Steven M. Yentis  
Editor-in-Chief, *Anaesthesia*

Neville Gibbs  
Editor-in-Chief, *Anaesthesia & Intensive Care*

Masashi Kawamoto  
Editor-in-Chief, *Anesthesia and Resuscitation*

Steven L. Shafer  
Editor-in-Chief, *Anesthesia & Analgesia*

Charles S. Reilly  
Editor-in-Chief, *British Journal of Anaesthesia*

Donald R. Miller  
Editor-in-Chief, *Canadian Journal of Anesthesia/Journal canadien d’anesthésie*
Robert Gaiser  
Editor-in-Chief, *Clinical Anesthesia*

Jasbir Singh  
Editor, *Clinical Drug Investigation*

Martin R. Tramèr  
Editor-in-Chief, *European Journal of Anaesthesiology*

Robin Russell  
Editor-in-Chief, *International Journal of Obstetric Anesthesia*

Timothy R.B. Johnson  
Editor-in-Chief, *International Journal of Gynecology and Obstetrics*

Kazuyoshi Hirota  
Editor-in-Chief, *Journal of Anesthesia*

Davide Chiumello  
Editor-in-Chief, *Minerva Anestesiologica*

José Cunha-Vaz  
Editor-in-Chief, *Ophthalmologica*
Acta Anaesthesiologica Scandinavica


American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology


American Journal of Therapeutics


Anaesthesia


Anaesthesia and Intensive Care


Anesthesia and Analgesia


Anesthesia and Resuscitation

2. Fujii Y. Jiachiruzemu does not affect the force of contraction of the diaphragm and EMG fatigue. Anesthesia and Resuscitation 2006;42:1–3*
3. Fujii Y. Effective dose of propofol at small dose for preventing postoperative nausea and vomiting in patients undergoing laparoscopic cholecystectomy. Anesthesia and Resuscitation 2006;42:17–9
8. Fujii Y, Takahashi S. Dopamine in a dose-dependent manner to improve the force of contraction of the diaphragm decreased by high CO2 blood. Anesthesia and Resuscitation 2009;45:7–10*

Archives of Ophthalmology


Archives of Otolaryngology–Head & Neck Surgery


Archives of Surgery


British Journal of Anaesthesia


**Canadian Journal of Anesthesia**


Clinical Drug Investigation

3. Fujii Y, Nakayama M. Reduction of Propofol-Induced Pain through Pretreatment with Lidocaine and/or Flurbiprofen. Clin Drug Investig 2004;24:749–53
Clinical Therapeutics


Current Therapeutic Research

European Journal of Anaesthesiology


International Journal of Gynaecology and Obstetrics


International Journal of Obstetric Anesthesia


Journal of Anesthesia


Journal of Clinical Anesthesia


Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery


Journal of Pediatric Surgery


Minerva Anestesiologica


Obstetrics and Gynecology


Ophthalmologica


Ophthalmology

Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery


Paediatric Anaesthesia


Surgical Endoscopy


The Breast Journal


The British Journal of Ophthalmology


The British Journal of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery

The British Journal of Surgery


The European Journal of Surgery


The Laryngoscope


* manuscript not in the Carlisle analysis

Fukushima Medical University School of Medicine


Hyogo Prefectural Kobe Children’s Hospital


Toho University School of Medicine

3. Fujii Y, Takahashi S. Dopamine in a dose-dependent manner to improve the force of contraction of the diaphragm decreased by high CO2 blood. Anesthesia and Resuscitation 2009;45:7–10*

Tokyo Medical and Dental University


Announcement


University of Tsukuba


31. Fujii Y. Jiachiruzemu does not affect the force of contraction of the diaphragm and EMG fatigue. Anesthesia and Resuscitation 2006;42:1–3*
32. Fujii Y. Effective dose of propofol at small dose for preventing postoperative nausea and vomiting in patients undergoing laparoscopic cholecystectomy. Anesthesia and Resuscitation 2006;42:17–9
33. Fujii Y. No Beneficial Effect of Neostigmine Pretreatment on Diaphragmatic Fatigue in Pentobarbital-Anesthetized Dogs. Anesthesia and Resuscitation 2006;42:49–51*
65. Fujii Y, Nakayama M. Reduction of Propofol-Induced Pain through Pretreatment with Lidocaine and/or Flurbiprofen. Clin Drug Investig 2004;24:749–53


* manuscript not in the Carlisle analysis