

May 16th, 2005

Dr. Kerry Rowe, Vice-Principal (Research)  
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DEPARTMENT OF  
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Dear Dr. Rowe,

**Re: More Allegation of Misconduct in Academic Research-  
Research funded by the Canadian Space Agency**

I am writing this letter in accordance with Article 17 of the Collective Agreement. I am referring to the following paper by R.W. Smith et al.:

R.W. Smith et al., Ann. N.Y. Acad. Sci. 974: 57-67 (2002)

A copy of this paper and other relevant documents are enclosed.

In a previous letter (dated April 25, 2004) evidence was given which suggests that the author (s) of the above paper committed scientific misconduct, specifically data falsification. It has now come to light that, in addition to the data falsification, this paper has been almost entirely copied from an earlier paper by R.W. Smith (Micro-gravity Sci. Technol. XI /2 (1998), pp.78 -84) (enclosed).

It is seen from the highlighted sections that the author (s) have copied almost the entire paper from the earlier paper that was published in 1998. At first, Figs. 4 and 5 appear to be the author's new contributions. A closer look, however, reveals that Figs. 4 and 5 are in fact taken from the work of other researchers, apparently without permission/ acknowledgement and without proper reference. See for example reference # 14 (non-existent) given in association with Figure 4 in the paper. In Fig. 5, the authors show data which have been taken from the work of Yoda et al., Itami et al. and Ma and Swahn without even giving reference to the original papers. It appears that the plagiarized paper has been accepted for publication in the Annals through a conference and it appears that it has been edited by the co-editor of the conference who is the corresponding author in the paper.

It is also interesting to note that the earlier paper published in Micro-gravity Science and Technology in 1998 was written by a single author (R.W. Smith) without any co-author. In that paper, there is no mention of Timothy J.N. Smith, Lowell Misener, and Josec Adamson (all from Millenium Biologix Inc.), not even in the acknowledgment section of the paper. Four years later, however, the names of these individuals appear as co-authors!

Note: The plagiarized paper published in the Annals has been published two times before. Once in Micro-gravity Science and Technology in 1998 and once in the proceedings of a symposium sponsored by the European Space Agency in 2000 (attached). Each time the title has been changed but the paper is essentially the same.

Sincerely,

M. Shirkhazadeh  
Associate Professor  
Department of Mechanical Engineering

Enc.