EXPRESSION OF CONCERN

Dual regeneration of muscle and nerve by intravenous administration of human amniotic fluid–derived mesenchymal stem cells regulated by stromal cell–derived factor-1 α in a sciatic nerve injury model

TO THE READERSHIP: The Editor-in-Chief has issued an expression of concern about the following article because of similarities in language to two other previously published articles:

Yang DY, Sheu ML, Su HL, Cheng FC, Chen YJ, Chen CJ, Chiu WT, Yiin JJ, Sheehan J, Pan HC: Dual regeneration of muscle and nerve by intravenous administration of human amniotic fluid–derived mesenchymal stem cells regulated by stromal cell–derived factor-1 α in a sciatic nerve injury model. *J Neurosurg* 116:1357–1367, 2012.

Reason for Expression of Concern

Portions of the text in the *Methods* and *Introduction* sections in the following articles are very similar to those found in the article cited above:

Pan HC, Yang DY, Ho SP, Sheu ML, Chen CJ,

Hwang SM, Chang MH, Cheng FC: Escalated regeneration in sciatic nerve crush injury by the combined therapy of human amniotic fluid mesenchymal stem cells and fermented soybean extracts, Natto. *J Biomed Sci* 16:75, 2009

Cheng FC, Tai MH, Sheu ML, Chen CJ, Yang DY, Su HL, Ho SP, Lai SZ, Pan HC: Enhancement of regeneration with glia cell line–derived neurotrophic factor–transduced human amniotic fluid mesenchymal stem cells after sciatic nerve crush injury. *J Neurosurg* 112:868–879, 2010.

Attribution to the first paper is not given, and attribution to the second paper is insufficient.

Dr. Pan was contacted about these findings, and an unsatisfactory reply was given. The close similarities between portions of text do not alone constitute grounds for retraction, but we find the similarities inappropriate in scholarly scientific writing.

James T. Rutka, MD, PhD, FRCSC

Editor-in-Chief

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INCLUDE WHEN CITING

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