April 9, 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 Miyasaka, Director, Tokyo Medical and Dental University
Professor 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, 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 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 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 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.

Our request follows the guidelines published by the Committee on Publication Ethics. Quoting from Wager E, Kleinert S, on behalf of COPE Council. Cooperation between research institutions and journals on research integrity cases: guidance from the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE).\[1\]

“Research and publication misconduct may not be an isolated incident. In many cases, when serious misconduct comes to light, investigation of the researcher’s earlier work reveals further problems. Therefore, when a researcher is found to have committed serious misconduct (such as data fabrication, falsification or plagiarism) the institution should review all the individual’s publications, including those published before the proven misconduct took place. In such cases, it may be necessary to alert previous employers to enable them to review work carried out by the discredited researcher when working at their institution, to determine the reliability of publications arising from that work.”

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 Shafer at steven.shafer@stanford.edu.

We appreciate your assistance with this request.

On behalf of our respective journals,

[Signature]

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

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Phil Walson
Editor-in-Chief, Clinical Therapeutics

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

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

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

Kazuyoshi Hirota
Editor-in-Chief, Journal of Anesthesia

James Hupp
Editor-in-Chief, Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

Davide Chiumello
Editor-in-Chief, Minerva Anestesiologica

James Scott
Editor-in-Chief, Obstetrics & Gynecology
José Cunha-Vaz  
Editor-in-Chief, Ophthalmologica

Neil Mortøn  
Editor-in-Chief, Pediatric Anesthesia

Alfred Cuschieri, Mark Talamini  
Sir Alfred Cuschieri, Mark Talamini  
Editors-in-chief, Surgical Endoscopy

Shahla Masood  
Shahla Masood  
Editor-in-Chief, The Breast Journal

Derek Alderson  
Derek Alderson  
Editor-in-Chief, The British Journal of Surgery

Michael C. Stewart  
Editor-in-Chief, The Laryngoscope
**Acta Anaesthesiologica Scandinavica**


**American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology**


**American Journal of Therapeutics**


**Anaesthesia**


**Anaesthesia and Intensive Care**


## Anesthesia & 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*
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


### British Journal of Anaesthesia - continued


### Canadian Journal of Anesthesia


### Canadian Journal of Anesthesia - continued


### Clinical Drug Investigation

### Clinical Therapeutics

12. Fuji Y, Nakayama M. Prevention of pain due to injection of propofol with IV administration of lidocaine 40 mg + metoclopramide 2.5, 5, or 10 mg or saline: randomized, double-blind study in Japanese adult surgical patients. Clin Ther 2007;29:856-61

### Current Therapeutic Research

### European Journal of Anaesthesiology


### International Journal of Gynaecology and Obstetrics


3. Fujii Y. Prevention of nausea and vomiting during termination of pregnancy. Int J Gynaecol Obstet 2010;111:3-7*

### International Journal of Obstetric Anesthesia


### Journal of Anesthesia


### Journal of Anesthesia - continued

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### Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

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### Journal of Pediatric Surgery

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### Minerva Anesthesiologica

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<td>1.</td>
<td>Fujii Y, Itakura M. Efficacy of the lidocaine/flurbiprofen axetil combination for reducing pain during the injection of propofol. Minerva Anestesiologica 2011;77:693-7</td>
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### Obstetrics & Gynecology

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### Ophthalmology

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**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** (incorporated into The British Journal of Surgery in 2003)


**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. Fuji 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*
6. Fuji Y, Nakayama M. Prevention of pain due to injection of propofol with IV administration of lidocaine 40 mg + metoclopramide 2.5, 5, or 10 mg or saline: a randomized, double-blind study in Japanese adult surgical patients. Clin Ther 2007;29:856-61
13. Fuji Y. Prevention of nausea and vomiting during termination of pregnancy. Int J Gynaecol Obstet 2010;111:3-7*
15. Fuji Y, Itakura M. Efficacy of the lidocaine/flurbiprofen axetil combination for reducing pain during the injection of propofol. Minerva Anestesiol 2011;77:693-7
**Tokyo Medical and Dental University**


**Toride Kyodo General Hospital**


### Toride Kyodo General Hospital - continued

### University of Tsukuba

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<th>Manuscript</th>
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<td>31.</td>
<td>Fujii Y. Iacchiruzemu does not affect the force of contraction of the diaphragm and EMG fatigue.</td>
<td>Anesthesia and Resuscitation 2006;42:1-3*</td>
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<td>32.</td>
<td>Fujii Y. Effective dose of propofol at small dose for preventing postoperative nausea and vomiting in patients undergoing laparoscopic cholecystectomy.</td>
<td>Anesthesia and Resuscitation 2006;42:17-9</td>
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<td>34.</td>
<td>Fujii Y. Low-Dose of Diazepam, but not Midazolam, Delays Recovery from Diaphragm Muscle Dysfunction in Dogs.</td>
<td>Anesthesia and Resuscitation 2007;43:47-50*</td>
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University of Tsukuba - continued


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


**University of Tsukuba - continued**


82. Fujii Y. Effects of diltiazem compared with nicardipine on diaphragmatic fatigability in vivo. Eur J Anaesthesiol 2003;20:575-6


* manuscript not in the Carlisle analysis