

## RETRACTION LETTER

In the articles "Thymopoietin, a Thymic Polypeptide Regulates Nicotinic  $\alpha$ -Bungarotoxin Sites in Chromaffin Cells in Culture" by M. Quik, R. Afar, S. Geertsens, T. Audhya, G. Goldstein, and J. M. Trifaro in *Molecular Pharmacology* 37: 90–97 (1990) and "Thymopoietin, a Potent Antagonist at Nicotinic Receptors in C2 Muscle Cell Cultures" by M. Quik, H. El-Bizri, T. Audhya, and G. Goldstein in *Molecular Pharmacology* 39: 324–331 (1991), the authors request that the following be noted. Studies by M. Quik, R. Cook, F. Revah, J.-P. Changeux, and J. Patrick at Baylor College of Medicine and Institut Pasteur ("Presence of  $\alpha$ -Cobratoxin and Phospholipase A<sub>2</sub> Activity in Thymopoietin Preparations" in *Molecular Pharmacology* 44: 678–679 (1993)), and confirmatory observations

by G. Goldstein at the Immunobiology Research Institute and R. Lukas at the Barrow Neurological Institute all showed that prior to 1991 the Immunobiology Research Institute provided some research samples of natural and/or synthetic thymopoietin contaminated with  $\alpha$ -cobratoxin or phospholipase A<sub>2</sub> activity. In view of this contamination about which we had no prior knowledge, we must retract the above articles published in *Molecular Pharmacology* and can no longer conclude from these experiments that thymopoietin interacts with any type of nicotinic receptor. We deeply regret this unfortunate situation which has misled ourselves and other interested readers of this journal.

M. Quik  
R. Afar  
S. Geertsens  
H. El-Bizri

Department of Pharmacology  
McGill University  
Montreal, Canada

J. M. Trifaro

Department of Pharmacology  
University of Ottawa  
Ottawa, Canada

T. Audhya

9 Argon Farm Drive  
Bridgewater, NJ 08807

G. Goldstein

Immunobiology Research Institute  
Annandale, NJ 08801

## RETRACTION LETTER

Independent studies done by M. Quik, J. Patrick, and colleagues at Baylor College of Medicine and by us at the Immunobiology Research Institute (IRI) or at the Barrow Neurological Institute all show that some research samples of natural bovine thymopoietin provided by IRI prior to 1991 contained  $\alpha$ -cobratoxin. Therefore, we must retract those portions of our published article [Lukas, R. J., Audhya, T., Goldstein, G., and

Lucero, L. *Mol. Pharmacol.* 38: 887–894 (1990)] that tested for effects of thymopoietin at nicotinic receptor subtypes. All of the other data reported in that article remain valid. However, we can no longer conclude from these experiments that thymopoietin interacts acutely at any type of nicotinic acetylcholine receptor. We deeply regret this situation.

Ronald J. Lukas, PhD  
Linda Lucero, MS

Barrow Neurological Institute

Tapan Audhya

9 Argon Farm Drive  
Bridgewater, NJ 08807

Gideon Goldstein, MD, PhD

Immunobiology Research Institute