

May 8, 2014

RIKEN President's comments on the decision regarding the appeal of the STAP cell paper research misconduct findings

I have just received a report from the investigative committee deliberating the appeal for a re-investigation of the committee's March 31, 2014 findings of research misconduct in the STAP cell research papers published in *Nature*. The committee has concluded that there is no need to re-open the case.

Based on this report, which I believe is the product of very careful deliberation by the committee, RIKEN has decided not to re-investigate the allegations of research misconduct. The appellant has been notified of this decision, and has been advised to retract the one paper which was found to have instances of research misconduct. Hereafter, RIKEN will proceed with the necessary measures stipulated in its relevant regulations.

As regards the allegations of research misconduct in past papers published by members of the investigative committee, we believe the committee has nevertheless carried out its investigation appropriately and have concluded that the allegations do not affect the committee's findings concerning the STAP cell papers. Members of the committee who are affiliated with RIKEN whose own papers have been called into question will be investigated separately as per RIKEN's regulations. Committee members who are not affiliated with RIKEN will be investigated as per the regulations of their own institutions.

I would like to reiterate that RIKEN takes this issue very seriously and will make every effort to prevent further instances of research misconduct and to regain public trust in our research activities.