Retraction: Proinflammatory Cytokines Induce Proteinase 3 as Membrane-Bound and Secretory Forms in Human Oral Epithelial Cells and Antibodies to Proteinase 3 Activate the Cells through Protease-Activated Receptor-2

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Letter of Retraction

We wish to retract the article titled “Proinflammatory Cytokines Induce Proteinase 3 as Membrane-Bound and Secretory Forms in Human Oral Epithelial Cells and Antibodies to Proteinase 3 Activate the Cells through Protease-Activated Receptor-2,” by Akiko Uehara, Yumiko Sugawara, Takashi Sasano, Haruhiko Takada, and Shunji Sugawara, The Journal of Immunology, 2004, 173: 4179–4189.

This retraction follows an investigation by Tohoku University into scientific misconduct. The investigation pointed out the following:

1. Fig. 1A: HSC-2, KB, and HO-1-u-1 are different cell lines, but the same photo is used for their GAPDH.
2. Fig. 7A: The cells were transfected with PR3- or Lamin A/C-specific siRNA, which are different, but the patterns of GAPDH are the same.

The first author, who conducted these experiments, could not counter the argument by adducing raw data at the investigation, and the investigation recognized them as scientific misconduct. Therefore, we wish to retract the article.

We deeply regret these errors and apologize to the scientific community for the need to retract the article.

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