

November 1, 2023

Personal & Confidential

Dr. Maarten Van Kampen
maarten@contemplated.nl

Dear Dr. Van Kampen,

I am writing in response to your January 4, 2022 email to my office, in which you allege that a 2015 publication and its 2017 Corrigendum¹ included five (5) possible instances of Falsification of Fabrication of data.

As Vice President for Research at MIT, I am responsible for the review of allegations of misconduct in research conducted by members of the MIT community under *Policies & Procedures* 10.1 (the “MIT policy”). Research Misconduct is defined to include fabrication and falsification in “proposing, conducting, reviewing, or reporting the results of research or other scholarly inquiry.” The policies also provide that research misconduct does not include honest error or differences of opinion. **Fabrication** is in turn defined as “making up data or results and recording or reporting them.” **Falsification** is defined as “manipulating research materials, equipment, or processes, or changing or omitting data or results such that the research is not accurately represented in the research record.”

At my request, a senior member of the MIT faculty, with appropriate subject matter expertise, carefully and objectively reviewed your concerns and all accompanying or referenced documents.

Based on the faculty member’s Inquiry of the complaint and referenced publications, MIT has determined that an Investigation into the allegations is **not** warranted because the available evidence is not sufficient to support the allegations that research misconduct may have occurred as alleged. Accordingly, MIT’s review of these allegations is now **closed** and this decision is final.

¹ Sa Li, Junjie Niu, Yu Cheng Zhao, Kang Pyo So, Chao Wang, Chang An Wang & Ju Li. High-rate aluminium yolk-shell nanoparticle anode for Li-ion battery with long cycle life and ultrahigh capacity. *Nature Communications* 6:7872 doi: 10.1038/ncomms8872 (5 August 2015) (Corrigendum published 29 Nov 2017).

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While I understand that you may not agree with MIT's decision to close its consideration of your complaint, I thank you for raising it to my office. MIT is committed to reviewing all allegations of misconduct that are brought forward in good faith in order to protect the integrity of scholarship and research.

MIT's receipt and review of allegations of possible research misconduct by my office are treated as **confidential** under MIT and, to the extent applicable, federal policies. MIT does not intend to disclose its receipt and review of these allegations to others. By the same token, you therefore may not disclose to others that you brought your concern to the VPR's attention, or the outcome of MIT's review of the concern.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MTZL' with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Maria T. Zuber