

RETRACTION

# Retraction: Berberine Improves Kidney Function in Diabetic Mice via AMPK Activation

The *PLOS ONE* Editors

Concerns have been raised that images presented in Figures 1 and 2 of this *PLOS ONE* article [1] are similar to images in other published works. Several of the figure legends and labels indicate that the images showing similarities represent different experiments.

Figure 2A AMPK Western blot in [1] is similar to the following:

- Figure 6b GAPDH panel in [2]
- Figure 5B GAPDH panel in [3]
- Figure 6B GAPDH panel in [4]
- Figure 1d AMPK panel in [5]
- Figure 1E AMPK panel in [6]
- Figure 3A GAPDH panel in [7]
- Figure 2B AMPK panels in [8]
- Figure 6C AMPK panel in [8]

Figure 2A P-AMPK Western blot in [1] is similar to the following:

- Figure 1E P-AMPK panel in [6]
- Figure 3A p27 kip1 panels in [7]
- Figure 2A P-AMPK panel in [8]

Figure 2A LKB1 Western blot in [1] is similar to the following:

- Figure 5C Occludin panel in [3]
- Figure 3a iNOS panel in [5]
- Figure 2A LKB1 panels in [8]

Figures 1A, 1B and 1C, including Western blots and charts, appear similar in [1] and [8].

Figure 2B P-AMPK and AMPK Western blots in [1] are similar to Figure 2B P-AMPK and AMPK panels, respectively, in [8].

Additionally, there is duplication of some text between the Results section of the *PLOS ONE* article [1] and the Results sections of [5–8].

The authors have stated that the Western blots for this article were performed by an external company. Following evaluation of the issues identified and the information provided by the authors, the concerns about the data reported in the article remain. In light of the concerns



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about the integrity of the data and text overlap, the *PLOS ONE* Editors retract this article. The corresponding author regrets this situation and extends his apology to the scientific community.

We notified the authors' institution and all co-authors of this retraction. GJG, LZ agreed with the retraction. LNS, HBN, XLW did not respond.

## References

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