

## Report on Research Compliance Volume 17, Number 2. January 23, 2020 In This Month's E-News: February 2020

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By Theresa Defino

◆ **More than two years after Ozgur Tataroglu's paper was retracted, the HHS Office of Research Integrity found that it and two grant applications contained falsifications,** leading to ORI's finding of research misconduct against Tataroglu, a former post-doctoral fellow at the University of Massachusetts (UMass) School of Medicine Department of Neurobiology. ORI announced Jan. 14 that Tataroglu agreed to a three-year plan for supervision should any of his research be funded by the Public Health Service, effective Dec. 30, 2019; he did not admit to wrongdoing, however.

ORI said Tataroglu "engaged in research misconduct by knowingly, intentionally, and/or recklessly falsifying data in bar graphs representing phase shift of circadian clock activity between *Drosophila* without and with heat pulse treatment" in four figures published in a paper in *Cell* in 2015 and retracted in 2017, in a total of five figures submitted in grant applications, and in data in his files. ORI said he "selectively alter[ed] the original *Drosophila* behavior locomotor data in his primary data files," which distorted experimental results. The *Cell* paper was retracted as requested by Tataroglu's coauthors following a misconduct investigation by UMass.

According to the *Cell* retraction notice, which Tataroglu did not sign, "In follow-up experiments, other members of the corresponding author's laboratory were unable to reproduce key observations" in the paper. ORI specified the structure of any supervisory plan, calling for a committee of two-to-three "senior faculty members at the institution who are familiar with Respondent's field of research, but not including Respondent's supervisor or collaborators, [to] provide oversight and guidance." The same committee is required to review any grant applications or papers prior to submission. Both requirements are uncommon in ORI resolution agreements. (1/16/20)

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