

Finnish Advisory Board on Research Integrity
Matej Oresic et al

Reference: An article in Helsingin Sanomat 7.2.2016 stating a doubt of possible research misconducts

DECISION, THE PROCESS FOR HANDLING ALLEGATIONS OF THE RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT OF RESEARCH

Helsingin Sanomat doubted in an article 7th of February 2016 that an investigation of a possible research misconduct carried out by VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland (VTT) in 2014 may have been unqualified. In addition in the same article Helsingin Sanomat displayed a suspicion whether there could be other violations of the responsible conduct of research related to the research professor Matej Oresic and his research team's work at VTT.

Due to above mentioned suspicion of possible research misconducts presented in media VTT decided to launch a preliminary inquiry 14th of March 2016 to initially determine whether there are any valid reasons behind the suspicion of a misconduct.

VTT has committed itself to follow the RCR guidelines in the handling of alleged violations of the responsible conduct of research. Since the guidelines have been renewed during the period the possible misconducts may have occurred the allegations were investigated against both the RCR 2002 and 2012 guidelines. However, the process of preliminary inquiry were conducted according to RCR 2012 guidelines.

Professor Seppo Koskinen agreed to accomplish the assessment of Possible Scientific Misconduct. His preliminary inquiry was completed 21.10.2016 and was performed according to the rules of Finnish Advisory on Research Integrity RCR (report attached). The conclusion from the evaluation is that Professor Koskinen was not able to detect any proof of violations of the responsible conduct of research in professor Matej Oresic and his research team's work at VTT.

The Report of professor Koskinen was sent to all members of the team and they were given an opportunity to comment the decision by giving VTT a written statement by 4th of November 2016. VTT has received 2 statements (attached), one from Matej Oresic and another one from Tuulia Hyötyläinen. Both statements were satisfied with the main outcome of the report, no proof of violation of the responsible conduct of research.

The RCR guidelines state that on the basis of the preliminary inquiry if the allegation turns out to be unfounded a reasoned decision to discontinue the investigation process should be made. Therefore, on the basis of the aforesaid evaluation VTT decides to discontinue the investigation of the allegation in question. This decision comprises only the process for handling allegations of the Responsible Conduct

of Research, any other implications out of that scope have been left off. Any party dissatisfied with this decision may request a statement from the Finnish Advisory Board on Research Integrity within six months of being notified of the decision (according to point 12 in the RCR process).

Espoo, 11. 11. 2016

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Antti Vasara', is positioned above the printed name.

Antti Vasara
President & CEO

Attachments:

- Report of Professor Seppo Koskinen, 1.10.2016
- Statement of Tuulia Hyötyläinen 3.11.2016
- Statement Of Matej Oresic 4.11.2016