

The third occurrence of plagiarism

As per the quality policy - AJP uses active plagiarism-check tools and submits articles to the researchers having best matching work for refereeing; still a few cases have managed to pass all the filters. The third case (since inception of the journal) of plagiarism has just been unearthed by Dr Atmaram Pawar.

'A floating pulsatile drug delivery system based on hollow calcium pectinate beads' by VG Somani, SR Shahi, YK Udavant, SC Atram, R Satpute, NM Shinde; published in the last issue of AJP [3(2)120-124] has been found having close resemblance to *'Development of hollow/porous calcium pectinate beads for floating -pulsatile drug delivery'* by Shradha S Badve, Praveen Sher, Aruna Korde, Atmaram P. Pawar; Eur. J. Biopharma. 65(1) (2007) 85-93.

One of the accused co-author, SR Shahi, is my personal friend. We studied together (then she was Ms Sadhana Gupta) and had our M Pharm dissertation done under the same supervisor (Prof NK Jain) at Sagar University. Soon after the matter was unearthed, she called me: "the students truly worked, the data are real, it is only that the cited article was used as a prior art, and by accident, we uploaded the wrong electron micrographs." I know,

and still believe, she is a sincere, hardworking and honest researcher; however, it seems that the group is not well-versed with the copyrights, and hence, the violation occurred. It could have been an escape from her side as she wasn't the corresponding author.

In the first instance of the AJP plagiarism also, the accused (Mr Chatap) was my close associate. The second case of plagiarism was unearthed by Prof NK Jain. A paper sent to one of his associates for reviewing was heavily based on their own work. Incidentally, the timely diagnosis helped us prevent the manuscript from getting published.



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