

RE: Query frontiersin editor

From: helmy.m@protonmail.com <helmy.m@protonmail.com>

To: Frontiers in Neuroscience - Peer Review <neuroscience.editorial.office@frontiersin.org>
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BCC: Retraction Watch <team@retractionwatch.com>
Ivan Oransky <ivan-oransky@erols.com>

Date: Monday, January 25th, 2021 at 8:42 AM

Dear Grace, Sir, Madam, Professor Kamila, and Professor Henry,

Thank you for your message, Grace. You write in your previous message "...The submissions he handled from authors with Singapore affiliations are in fact different institutions..." and you make no mention of submissions Prof Augustine handled with Korea affiliations with which he is also affiliated. May this please be clarified? And may you please address the third point in my original message?

Kind regards,
Mohamed Helmy
MD, PhD

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Singapore 648131

----- Original Message -----

On Saturday, January 23, 2021 1:23 AM, Frontiers in Neuroscience - Peer Review <neuroscience.editorial.office@frontiersin.org> wrote:

Dear Dr Helmy,

Thank you very much for your email. Regarding your concerns, Augustine was previously affiliated with UCLA, USC, Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry and Duke University, however, none of the authors whose manuscripts he handled are from these institutions. The submissions he handled from authors with Singapore affiliations are in fact different institutions. Regarding your second point, our policy is that any collaboration within the last 2 years need to be declared. Since he handled this manuscript in 2016, and co-authored this manuscript in 2014 we wouldn't take further action on this.

I hope this answers your questions.

Kind regards,

Grace Jones
Research Integrity Specialist

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For technical issues, please contact our Application Support team

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, making science open has never been more essential to global well-being. Frontiers is responding rapidly and continuing to support researchers with our publishing services. Visit our Coronavirus Knowledge Hub for initiatives and resources.

----- Original Message -----

From: Helmy, M. [helmy.m@protonmail.com]

Sent: 23.12.2020 19:04

To: editorial.office@frontiersin.org; kamila.markram@epfl.ch;
neuroscience.editorial.office@frontiersin.org; henry.markram@frontiersin.org;
kamila.markram@frontiersin.org; henry.markram@epfl.ch; press@frontiersin.org

Subject: Query frontiersin editor

Dear Sir, Madam, Professor Kamila, and Professor Henry,

Concerning the editorial contributions of Professor George Augustine as Guest Associate Editor for *Frontiers in Molecular Neuroscience*, *Frontiers in Neuroanatomy*, and *Frontiers in Synaptic Neuroscience*, and as Associate Editor for *Frontiers in Neural Circuits*:

1. Are *Frontiers in Neuroscience* Guidelines for Guest Associate Editor and Associate Editor the same as those published by *Frontiers in* for Associate Editor (Frontiers AE Guidelines, 2020)? If so, then Augustine, G. J. has breached your Guidelines. Of 14 publications he edited, at least 6 are by authors from an institute Augustine, G. J. was or is affiliated with.
2. At least one article Augustine, G. J. edited (Nakajima et al., 2016) is by co-authors of his (Kwon et al., 2014; Song et al., 2014). That doesn't look right.
3. I am concerned Augustine, G. J. does not seem to follow *Frontiers in* efforts towards diversity and transparency in editorial practice. May this please be clarified?

Unfortunately I am unable to contact Augustine, G. J.

Kind regards,

Mohamed Helmy
MD, PhD

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Frontiers AE Guidelines (2020). https://www.frontiersin.org/design/pdf/ae_guidelines.pdf.

Kwon, J.-T., Nakajima, R., Kim, H.-S., Jeong, Y., Augustine, G.J., and Han, J.-H. (2014). Optogenetic activation of presynaptic inputs in lateral amygdala forms associative fear memory. *Learning & memory* **21**(11), 627-633. doi:10.1101/lm.035816.114

Nakajima, R., Jung, A., Yoon, B.-J., and Baker, B.J. (2016). Optogenetic Monitoring of Synaptic Activity with Genetically Encoded Voltage Indicators. *Frontiers in Synaptic Neuroscience* **8**(22).

doi:10.3389/fnsyn.2016.00022

Song, S.S., Kang, B.J., Wen, L., Lee, H.J., Sim, H.-r., Kim, T.H., Yoon, S., Yoon, B.-J., Augustine, G.J., and Baik, J.-H. (2014). Optogenetics reveals a role for accumbal medium spiny neurons expressing dopamine D2 receptors in cocaine-induced behavioral sensitization. *Frontiers in Behavioral Neuroscience* **8**(336). doi:10.3389/fnbeh.2014.00336

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