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Retraction: Long non-coding RNA TUG1 alleviates high glucose induced podocyte inflammation, fibrosis and apoptosis in diabetic nephropathy *via* targeting the miR-27a-3p/E2F3 axis

Laura Fisher

Retraction of 'Long non-coding RNA TUG1 alleviates high glucose induced podocyte inflammation, fibrosis and apoptosis in diabetic nephropathy *via* targeting the miR-27a-3p/E2F3 axis' by Yang Li *et al.*, *RSC Adv.*, 2019, **9**, 37620–37629, DOI: 10.1039/C9RA06136C.

The Royal Society of Chemistry hereby wholly retracts this *RSC Advances* article due to concerns with the reliability of the data. The images in the article, and the raw data provided by the authors, were screened by an image integrity specialist.

The blots and many other features of the article were found to closely resemble the blots and features of a number of other articles, which is highly unexpected given that there are completely different author lists for these articles. The western blots in these papers have very similar-looking blots with non-distinctive shaped bands at the same, regular distance throughout the articles. They do not look genuine.

In addition, analysis of the raw data provided by the authors for this paper showed that it was digitally cropped without molecular weight markers or any labelling on it. The raw data also shared striking similarities to the raw data provided for a number of other articles with no overlapping authors. The raw data does not look genuine and therefore cannot be used to validate the published data.

Given the significance of the concerns about the validity of both the data in the article and the raw data provided by the authors, the findings presented in this article are not reliable.

The authors have been informed but have not responded to any correspondence regarding the retraction.

Signed: Laura Fisher, Executive Editor, *RSC Advances*

Date: 15$^{\text{th}}$ January 2021