

EXPRESSION OF CONCERN

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Cite this: *Biomater. Sci.*, 2023, **11**, 6674

# Expression of Concern: Low-intensity focused ultrasound (LIFU)-activated nanodroplets as a theranostic agent for noninvasive cancer molecular imaging and drug delivery

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DOI: 10.1039/d3bm90073h  
rsc.li/biomaterials-science

Expression of Concern for 'Low-intensity focused ultrasound (LIFU)-activated nanodroplets as a theranostic agent for noninvasive cancer molecular imaging and drug delivery' by Jianxin Liu *et al.*, *Biomater. Sci.*, 2018, **6**, 2838–2849, <https://doi.org/10.1039/C8BM00726H>.

*Biomaterials Science* is publishing this expression of concern in order to alert our readers that we are presently unsure of the reliability of the data reported in Fig. 7b–d of this article. There are overlapping panels in the PCNA and TUNEL staining images in Fig. 7b and there are unresolved concerns with the proliferating index of PCNA in Fig. 7c and the apoptosis index of TUNEL in Fig. 7d.

The authors have provided replacement data for Fig. 7b for consideration and say that the new data does not affect the conclusions of the paper.

An independent expert has stated that the authors' response has not addressed all concerns with Fig. 7c and d.

The Royal Society of Chemistry has asked the affiliated institution to investigate this matter and establish whether the replacement images for Fig. 7b provided by the authors provide an accurate representation of the experiments that were conducted, and confirm the integrity and reliability of the data published in Fig. 7c and d. An expression of concern will continue to be associated with this manuscript until we receive conclusive information from the institution on this matter.

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21/08/2023

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