

The University of Sheffield



Bone Metabolism Group
Clinical Sciences Centre
Northern General Hospital
Herries Road, Sheffield
S5 7AU, UK
Tel: (0114) 271-4705
Fax: (0114) 261-8775
E✉ : ablumsohn@sheffield.ac.uk

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Professor Richard Eastell
Research Dean
University of Sheffield
Clinical Sciences Centre
Herries Road
Sheffield S5 7AU

Dear Richard

I have had several E-mails relating to a planned meeting about the HIP/vert data at the ECTS meeting. My previous and often-stated concerns relating to the probity of this data analysis have been largely ignored. Another meeting to pressurise me to acquiesce with this process would not be feasible.

To summarise our previous and extensive conversations:

1) No self-respecting scientist could ever be expected to publish findings based on data to which they do not have free and full access.

2) This is particularly so when

- a) there is a preconceived desirable result which is dictating statistical analysis, b) the results are likely to benefit a pharmaceutical company patron,
- c) results are likely to have a direct impact on patient care,
- d) results are likely to influence our scientific understanding of drug action, and
- e) where the experiment is unlikely to be repeated or refuted by subsequent work.

2) It is inappropriate for a head of a University Department to pressurise a colleague (let alone a senior one) to get involved in such activities based on data generated by that colleague, to accept blindly the findings of company statisticians or the use of particular statistical techniques, or to accept other misleading aspects of the treatment of data.

3) Based on my limited view of this data I have every reason to believe that the proposed and previous presentation of the data is misleading in several respects. I have already discussed these concerns with you on several occasions over many months and do not plan to reiterate them.

4) I also have reason to believe that several aspects of the existing three abstract presentations relating to this data and published in my name are incorrect and misleading. This contamination of the scientific record has to be corrected as soon as possible.

5) I do not believe that attempts to alter the unit of analysis (t-score approach), to ignore analyses already done, to repeat/add assays (to allow different statistical analysis) or to add authors will solve the fundamental problem we have.

6) I have severe ethical concerns about the way in which this process has worked, irrespective of the way in which this might have altered the perception of the data. I cannot reconcile this with my personal values or statutory responsibilities as a clinician, pathologist or responsible scientist.

This obfuscating process has been going on for a year now, and the misleading analyses have been in the public domain for 7 months. Given the persistent attempts to a) prevent full and proper examination and presentation of these data, and b) to prevent correction of the scientific record, I can only assume that you have not conveyed my views to the company. If you feel that you have not properly represented my concerns in your private meetings with the company about a) the data generated by me in my laboratory or b) the data analysis, please do let me know.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Blumsohn', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr Aubrey Blumsohn MBBCh, BSc(hons), MSc, PhD, MRCPATH
Senior Lecturer in Metabolic Bone Disease
Honorary Consultant in Metabolic Bone Disease
University of Sheffield and Sheffield Teaching Hospitals

Info: As also emailed