Summary of the Interim Report on Suspected Research Misconduct at the Research Laboratory of Former Professor Shigeaki Kato at the Institute of Molecular and Cellular Biosciences

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The Committee on the Code of Conduct for Research is investigating a case of suspected research misconduct by former professor Shigeaki Kato and his research laboratory in the University of Tokyo Institute of Molecular and Cellular Biosciences. The investigation is being carried out thoroughly with due regard to the great number of articles and co-authors involved and the complexity of the causes of and background to the issue. So far, the Committee has identified articles that include inappropriately manipulated or omitted grapg8apg8nBT1 0 0 1 342.**25**4955 Tm**[**th**Q**]-11(p)**f**g8)4(aH-5(r**Q**)e and 4) excessive manipulation of image contrast (see appendix 2 for visual examples).

3. Case background

Several factors are being considered as possible causes of the current case. These include having a large and diverse research laboratory and the importance of publishing research articles describing high impact research in scientific journals of international repute in combination with poor management of experimental data, negligent checking of article content, and poor awareness of regulations concerning research ethics.

(1) On the research laboratory leader

The division of responsibility for inappropriate manipulation of graphic data

storage and research data databases, creating archives of cases of misconduct, and appointment of an individual in charge of research ethics at each faculty, graduate school, institute, center or other organizational unit of the University. The Committee will take this Action Plan into account when drawing up its conclusions in the current case and outlining future actions to be taken to prevent a recurrence.

5. Continuing investigation

The Committee will continue its investigations to identify the individuals who were involved in the inappropriate manipulation of graphic data in the articles and how they were involved. When the individuals involved have been identified, the Committee will provide them an opportunity to explain their actions and also to file an individual appeal, and will publicize its conclusions about this case of suspected research misconduct as soon as possible. The Committee emphasizes that each member of the university should work hard to recover trust in the university and science as a whole, sharing the