

Letter of Retraction

To whom it may concern:

I would like to retract the review article in *Molecular Neurobiology* (vol. 6, no. 1, pp. 19–40) entitled "Thymopoietin, a Thymic Polypeptide, Potently Interacts at Muscle and Neuronal Nicotinic α -Bungarotoxin Receptors."

Recent studies by M. Quik, R. Cook, F. Revah, J.-P. Changeux, and J. Patrick at Baylor College of Medicine and Institut Pasteur ("Presence of α -Cobratoxin and Phospholipase A₂ Activity in Preparations of Thymopoietin," *Molecular Pharmacology*, 1993, in press), and confirmatory observations by G. Goldstein at the Immunology Research Institute and R. Lukas at the Barrow Neurological Institute, show that some research samples of natural and/or synthetic thymopoietin were contaminated with α -cobratoxin or phospholipase A₂ activity; these samples were provided to our group by the Immunobiology Research Institute up to 1991 and were used in papers published to the end of 1992. I had no knowledge of this α -cobratoxin contamination or substitution of the thymopoietin preparations until December 1992.

Our current results (*Molecular Pharmacology*, 1993, in press) show that the effects previously attributed to thymopoietin were most likely caused by the presence of the α -cobratoxin contaminant in the preparations. Therefore, those parts of the review relating to the interaction of thymopoietin with the nicotinic α -bungarotoxin receptor in muscle or neuronal tissue are not valid.

I deeply regret this unfortunate situation, which has misled us all.

M. Quik