

[To the Complainant]

Final decision by the Danish Committee on Scientific Dishonesty for Research in Health and Medical Science (USF).

By letter of 15 September 2010 you sent a copy of your letter of the same date to [...], Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington DC, to the Danish Committees on Scientific Dishonesty. Your said letter was sent simultaneously to 46 named persons, including the president of the USA. In your letter you put forward a number of allegations concerning use of mercury compounds in the manufacture of drugs, especially vaccines.

In subsequent correspondence the secretariat of the Danish Committees on Scientific Dishonesty (DCSD) informed you of the very precise mandate given to the DCSD by the Danish Parliament and as summarised briefly in Annex 1. In order to judge whether your allegations fall within the mandate of the DCSD the secretariat further asked you to expand and clarify the allegations that you would wish the DCSD to process. By letter of 27 September 2011 you finally defined your allegations in a way which permits the DCSD to look at your case.

Those parts of your allegations that may fall within the mandate of the DCSD is summarised as follows:

1. You accuse [the Defendant] for scientific dishonesty committed as co-author to:[...].
2. You accuse [the Defendant] for scientific dishonesty due to inexplicable changes in his professional credentials as stated in recent peer-reviewed publications.

Final Decision

The Danish Committee on Scientific Dishonesty for Research in Health and Medical Science (USF) concludes that the allegations as summarised above are deemed to be manifestly baseless and partly outside the competence and mandate of the DCSD. Accordingly, the Committee declines to consider the case further, cf. section 4, para 2, of Executive Order no. 306 of 20 April 2009 as amended by Executive Order no. 144 of 20 February 2012 on the Danish Committees on Scientific Dishonesty.

See further explanations below.

29 August 2012

**Danish Committees on
Scientific Dishonesty
c/o
Danish Agency for Science
Technology and Innovation**

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Danish Committees on Scientific Dishonesty – final decision

The members who have processed the case are: Lise Wogensen Bach, Bente Gammelgaard, Olaf Nielsen, Ole Haagen Nielsen, Ole Steen Nielsen, Bente Pakkenberg and Henrik Gunst Andersen (chairman).

The Committee's deliberations

The case has been processed according to Act on the Research Advisory System, etc. (Consolidated Act no. 1064 of 6 September 2010 on the Research Advisory System, etc.) and Executive Order No. 306 of 20 April 2009 on the Danish Committees on Scientific Dishonesty.

Concerning your allegation summarised above under 1) the Committee finds that the data as outlined in the article in [...] justify the conclusion. The authors have comprehensively explained about the data and the methods used. Equally, the authors have informed about the [...]’s part in the work as named persons working for [...] are credited under acknowledgements.

Your allegation that the authors seek to hide a decrease in autism from 2001 is not correct as the decrease appears in Figure 1 of the article. Besides, the contents of the article focus on the years before 2000.

Concerning your allegation summarised above under 2) the Committee wishes to draw your attention to the fact that CV’s (curriculum vitae) are not scientific products as mentioned in the Executive Order no. 306. Consequently, that part of your allegation is outside the mandate of the CDS. As for the rest of your allegation, the Committee finds that a scientist’s credentials may change legitimately in cases, for instance, where a scientist is moving from one institution to another, or if he is performing research activities at more than one institution at a time.

In the particular case concerning [the Defendant] it is further the conclusion of the Committee that the information concerning [the Defendant]’s actual work place is of minor importance judged from the fact that [the Defendant] is not principal investigator of any of the cited publications.

Letter of information to [the Defendant]

A copy of this decision will be sent to [the Defendant] for information, cf. Act no. 429 of 31 May 2000 with amendments on Processing of Personal Data.

No means of administrative appeal

This decision is final and may not be brought before any other administrative authority, cf. Section 34 of Consolidated Act no. 1064 of 6 September 2010 on the Research Advisory System, etc.

Sincerely,

Henrik Gunst Andersen
Chairman for the Danish Committees
on Scientific Dishonesty

Danish Committees for
Scientific Dishonesty
c/o
Danish Agency for Science
Technology and Innovation

Annex 1

Brief introduction to the work of the Danish Committees on Scientific Dishonesty (DCSD).

The purpose of the DCSD is to process cases relating to scientific dishonesty which are important to Danish research.

Scientific dishonesty is defined as: falsification, fabrication, plagiarism and other serious violation of good scientific practice committed wilfully or grossly negligent on planning, performance or reporting of research results including plagiarism of other persons' results or publications.

The DCSD can not consider cases involving the validity or truth of scientific theories or cases involving the research quality of a scientific product.

The work of the DCSD is based on the Consolidated Act no. 1064 of 6 September 2010 on the Research Advisory System etc. and on Executive Order no. 306 of 20 April 2009 as amended by Executive Order no. 144 of 20 February 2012 on The Danish Committees on Scientific Dishonesty.

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