

March 3, 2014

President's Statement: Response to STAP Cell Papers

The Molecular Biology Society of Japan (MBSJ) takes problems relating to the propriety of research very seriously and has responded to them vigorously. At last year's annual meeting of the MBSJ, we held an Administrative Board Forum to discuss such problems. We plan to publish the full text of the Forum this month and to issue a report on our efforts regarding propriety.

Members of the MBSJ are among the authors of the two papers by RIKEN on STAP cells that were published in the scientific journal *Nature* in January this year. It is a matter of serious concern to the MBSJ that many problems have been pointed out both in the media and on the Internet concerning the handling of raw data (images) and description of experimental methods in these papers and in a previous paper by the primary author. The MBSJ hopes that, as one of the leading scientific research organizations in Japan, RIKEN will issue a precise report on the situation as quickly as possible and will make an appropriate response that will serve as a criterion for the future.

Noriko Osumi

President

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