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## University of Tokyo finds scientists doctored 33 papers, harassed subordinates

JIJI

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A University of Tokyo panel said Friday that several scientists, including former professor Shigeaki Kato, had conspired to use false images in 33 research papers.

The investigation by the school, better known as Todai, has centered on a team Kato led at its Institute of Molecular and Cellular Biosciences. The panel identified Kato and 10 other individuals, including students and three teachers.

The panel found 51 research papers the team published since 1999 contained inappropriate images. It identified intentional misconduct in 33 of the cases.

It said the team put undue emphasis on getting its papers accepted by prominent journals, adding that Kato and other team leaders gave inappropriate instructions to junior members and often treated them in a heavy-handed way.

Kato and others have already left the University of Tokyo. By way of punishment, it is considering urging them to return their retirement allowances, and may revoke the academic degrees of the former students involved.

Furthermore, it will consider returning ¥1.5 billion in research funds to the government and other organizations. University of Tokyo President Junichi Hamada will take a 10 percent pay cut for three months.

The team's wrongdoing "substantially disturbed sound academic development and was thus very regrettable," Hamada said.

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