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By Theresa Defino

◆ **City University of New York (CUNY) has accused neuroscientist Hoau-Yan Wang, a CUNY faculty member and longtime collaborator with embattled biotech firm Cassava Sciences, of misconduct involving 20 papers, the journal *Science* reported.** Many of Wang's papers provided key support for the experimental Alzheimer's drug simufilam's transition from the lab into clinical studies. The investigative committee found numerous signs that images were improperly manipulated. For example, the investigation found that a 2012 paper in *The Journal of Neuroscience* suggested that simufilam can blunt the pathological effects of beta-amyloid contained signs that the images had been improperly manipulated. The report also concluded "that Lindsay Burns, Cassava's senior vice president for neuroscience and co-author on several papers, bears primary or partial responsibility for some of the possible misconduct or scientific errors."

However, the committee could not prove its allegations because Wang did not produce the original raw data. Instead, the panel said its finding of wrongdoing was based on "long-standing and egregious misconduct in data management and record keeping by Dr. Wang." The 50-page report obtained by *Science* said Wang failed to turn over to the panel "even a single datum or notebook in response to any allegation" and cites "Wang's inability or unwillingness to provide primary research materials to this investigation" as a "deep source of frustration." The report said Wang offered a variety of defenses, including that much of his original data had been "thrown away in response to a request from [City College of New York] to clean the lab during the COVID-19 pandemic." The panel could find no evidence of such a request. The investigation began in the fall of 2021 in response to allegations from other investigators that the HHS Office of Research Integrity forwarded. Given the CUNY report, some scientists have called for the two ongoing simufilam trials to be suspended. (10/19/23)

◆ **The NIH Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) has released a webinar recording on how the National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement & Reduction of Animals in Research (NC3R) Experimental Design Assistant (EDA) can assist researchers' plans for their studies involving animals.** The webinar is part of OLAW's push for the research community to take advantage of OLAW's available resources for research plans to strengthen the rigor, reproducibility and translatability of NIH-supported animal research. The free online tool from U.K.-based NC3R helps users build a diagram representing an experimental plan, provides customized feedback and can make suggestions on statistical methods, randomization, blinding, sample sizes and other critical design aspects.

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