

## Fraudsters delay advancing science

Yoshiyasu Takefuji

Kai Kupferschmidt wrote an article entitled “Tide of lies” (1). Japanese researchers publish 5% papers out of the world (1). Based on the Retraction Watch Leaderboard (2), it indicates that half of the top 10 are Japanese researchers (1). Japanese fraudsters include at the top Yoshitaka Fujii (total retractions: 183), at the 6<sup>th</sup> Yoshihiro Sato (42), at the 8<sup>th</sup> Shigeaki Kato (39), at the 9<sup>th</sup> Jun Iwamoto (38), at the 10<sup>th</sup> Yuhji Saitoh (38) (2). Fraudsters must understand that fabricated data can be eventually discovered sooner or later. Lies or frauds delay the progress of science. In order to escape from the delay in advancing science, we must diminish frauds. A scam researcher does not consider fabricating data as a serious problem. In order to reduce scam researchers, moral or ethics problems of highly educated researchers must be solved. Kai Kupferschmidt questioned what explains the number of prolific Japanese fraudsters? In Japan there are many submissive (obedient) researchers. Article 27 Constitution of Prince Shotoku (574-622) states that “Cherish the harmony among people” or “Harmony is the greatest of virtues”. Surprisingly, we in Japan have kept it as of today. We must change the obedient researchers into researchers with a strong sense of ethics and morals.

### References:

1. Kai Kupferschmidt, Tide of lies, Science 17 Aug 2018: Vol. 361, Issue 6403, pp. 636-641
2. <https://retractionwatch.com/the-retraction-watch-leaderboard/>