# Research Misconducts in Korea;

- Past, present, and future

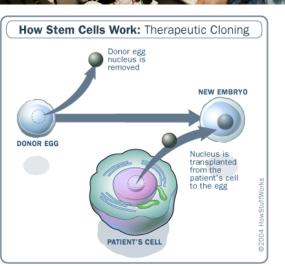
Eun Seong Hwang

Department of Life Science, University of Seoul

# 1. The beginning

## 2005. 12. Stem-cell cloning scandal of <u>Hwang</u>, <u>Woo-Suk</u>





Published online 15 December 2005 | Nature | doi:10.1038/news051212-14 Corrected online: 16 December 2005

News

# Stem-cell pioneer accused of faking data

South Korean television airs unconfirmed allegations over landmark research.

David Cyranoski

The credibility of work by Woo Suk Hwang, South Korea's high-profile cloning researcher, has again been called into question. News stations across Korea have broadcast allegations from a collaborator that the pioneering work in deriving stem cells tailored to individual patients, published by *Science* in May 2005, was based on fabricated data.

Hwang, who works at Seoul National University, has not commented on the reports, and *Nature* has been unable to verify or refute any of the allegations.



Hwang faces more controversy.

© AAP Photo/Ahn Youngjoon

The allegations are based on television



# The Washington Post

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# South Korean Scientist Apologizes for Deception; Hwang Says Data Were Doctored by Others

[FINAL Edition]

The Washington Post - Washington, D.C.

Subjects: Biomedical research; Apologies; Stem cells;

Fraud

Author: Faiola, Anthony
Date: Jan 12, 2006

Start Page: A.12

Section: A SECTION

[Hwang Woo Suk]'s apology came two days after an academic panel at the university, where Hwang's team conducted much of its research, concluded that virtually all of his professed stem cell breakthroughs were faked. Hwang had risen to international fame as a result of his team's claims of having extracted stem cells from cloned human embryos, a technology that held out hope for millions of patients worldwide with currently incurable diseases.

Hwang blamed two collaborating researchers at the MizMedi Hospital, a fertility clinic in Seoul where Hwang's team obtained most of the human eggs used in its research, for falsifying the data. The hospital's researchers had played a crucial role in Hwang's work because they were tasked with cultivating the cloned human embryos

#### 2006.3.6 - "Hwang admitted that he ordered fabrication of data on stem cells"

Prosecution reported that Professor Hwang Woo-suk confessed that he ordered the manipulation of the samples related to the 2005 scientific paper. The prosecution is acknowledging that Hwang instructed Kwon Dae-ki to manipulate DNA fingerprint analysis samples related to stem cells 4-11 in the 2005 paper (NT-4-11). According to Kwon Dae-Ki of Seoul National University, he has divided the somatic cells corresponding to NT-4 and No. 11 into two samples, and one of them is a somatic cell sample and the other is a patient-customized stem cell. - www.nocutnews.co.kr/news/130155

#### RETRACTED 12 JANUARY 2006; SEE LAST PAGE

REPORTS

ally intense ecologically, even if their macroevolutionary consequences are unlikely to have been significant.

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- 23. Our data provide multiple estimates for the mid-tolate Paleczoic increase in shilling frequencies. The evidence for late Mesopoic increase is more circumstantial, however, being based on the late Cenopoic.

- 3% and represents a slow increase over a period of -500 million years.
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Research Fund (grants AC 37737 and AC 40735), and the Fulbright Commission for financial support; F. Gahn, B. Deline, E. Roberts, M. Tuura, and P. Shafer for help in processing museum samples; and S. Xiao, J. Huntley, G. Dert, and two anonymous reviewers for useful comments on the manuscript.

#### Supporting Online Material

www.sciencemag.org/cgi/cantent/full/308/5729/1774/ DC1

Materials and Methods

50M Text

Fig. S1

Tables S1 to 55

RaTerencis

8 April 2005; accepted 21 April 2005 10.1126/science.1113408

# Patient-Specific Embryonic Stem Cells Derived from Human SCNT Blastocysts

Woo Suk Hwang, 1,2\* Sung Il Roh,3 Byeong Chun Lee,1
Sung Keun Kang,1 Dae Kee Kwon,3 Sue Kim,1 Sun Jong Kim,3
Sun Woo Park,1 Hee Sun Kwon,1 Chang Kyu Lee,2 Jung Bok Lee,3
Jin Mee Kim,3 Curie Ahn,4 Sun Ha Paek,4 Sang Sik Chang,5
Jung Jin Koo,5 Hyun Soo Yoon,6 Jung Hye Hwang,6
Youn Young Hwang,6 Ye Soo Park,6 Sun Kyung Oh,4 Hee Sun Kim,4
Jong Hyuk Park,7 Shin Yong Moon,4 Gerald Schatten7\*

Patient-specific, immune-matched human embryonic stem cells (hESCs) are anticipated to be of great biomedical importance for studies of disease and development and to advance clinical deliberations regarding stem cell transplantation. Eleven hESC lines were established by somatic cell nuclear transfer (SCNT) of skin cells from patients with disease or injury into donated oocytes. These tines, nuclear transfer (NT)-hESCs, grown on human feeders from the same NT donor or from genetically unrelated individuals, were established at high rates, regardless of NT donor sex or age, NT-hESCs, were plurinotant

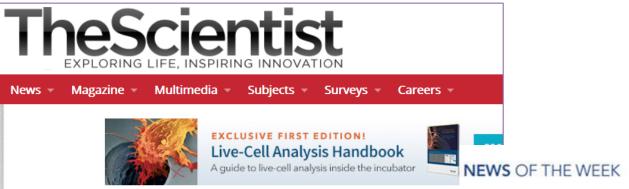
## Wrongdoings

- 1. Data Fabrication in 2004, 2005 Science papers and other papers
- 2. Released fabricated results to press without a journal verification
  - "Youngrongii" so-claimed cloned calf. No DNA evidence has been shown, and no samples supporting its existence was stored.
- 3. Unethical practice in collecting ovum in the cloning experiments (e.g. from students)
- 4. Misdeed in research practice and poor research mentoring
- 5. Wasting research funds (69 billion won from Ministry of science and technology, Ministry of Information and Communication, Ministry of health and welfare, National Agricultural cooperative federation, Kyunggi province, Posco, and from Hwang's supporters association)

# 2. Research misconducts past

- remarkable cases and lessons

#### 1. Scandal on data fabrication in Science & Nature Chem biol



The Scientist » The Nutshell

#### Korean researcher fired for fraud

A South Korean scientist who once said he wanted "to become another Hwang Woo-Suk Korea"

By Elie Dolgin | March 3, 2008









A South Korean scientist who once said he wanted "to become another Hwang Woo-Suk for Korea come ironically close to his goal. Kim Tae-kook, a bioscience professor at the Korea Advanced Ins Science and Technology (KAIST) in the central South Korean city of Daejeon, was suspended on f for fabricating data in two papers, according to Agence France-Presse (AFP). linkurl:One of the papers;http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/309/5731/121, published in *Science* in 2005, developed a technique for identifying molecular targets in human cells, and has been cited 34 tim

SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT

# **Science** Retracts Discredited Paper; Bitter Patent Dispute Continues

In an unusual decision, Science this week retracted a 2005 report without the agreement of all the authors (see p. 463). The report, authored by a group at the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) and at CGK Co., both in Daejeon, South Korea, describes a method, dubbed MAGIC, to identify drug targets by tracking protein movements in live cells (Science, 1 July 2005, p. 121). The retraction is based on an investigation by KAIST that concluded that although the technique might be valid, data in the paper were fabricated and "the extent of the fabrication is serious enough to damage the authenticity of the entire paper." The same group claimed in the journal Nature Chemical Biology in July 2006 that it had used MAGIC to identify an antiaging molecule;

evidences will be provided to prove that MAGIC technology and anti-aging compounds in two papers are real," chemical geneticist Tae Kook Kim, formerly at KAIST, wrote in an e-mail to a Science reporter. He added that he intends to take legal action "against several parties for my defamation and libel."

The convoluted saga began in July 2004 when Kim and several partners established CGK Co. to commercialize a technique for identifying drug targets. The method, MAGnetism-based Interaction Capture, works by coating a magnetized nanoparticle with a molecule of interest. The coated nanoparticle is then introduced into a cell in which a target protein has been tagged with a fluorescent label. Applying a magnetic field forces the nanoparticle to move. If the

## 2. Plagiarism cases caught and criticized in *Nature*, 2008



#### Reported case #1. Complete duplication

Experimental Gerontology



Experimental Gerontology 34 (1999) 319-336

Review

A review of the effects of microgravity and of hypergravity on aging and longevity \*\*, \*\*\*\*

#### Abstract

This article reviews the literature dealing with the effects of acute or chronic exposure to microgravity (spacecrafts) or hypergravity (centrifuge) on longevity and the aging process. Even if space flights are now common, the effects of these two kinds of environment on aging are still poorly documented, particularly in mammals. However, there is a growing interest for the use of the fruit fly *Drosophila melanogaster*, and this species may be now considered as a model organism in gravitational biology studies dealing with aging. © 1999 Elsevier Science Inc. All rights reserved.

Korean J Biol Sci 4: 231-237, 2000

## Effects of Microgravity and Hypergravity on Aging and Longevity of Insects

Hak Ryul Kim

Department of Biology, College of Sciences, Korea University, Seoul 136-701, Korea

melanogaster

The effects of microgravity and hypergravity on aging are still poorly documented, particularly in mammals. However, there is a growing interest for the use of the fruit fly, *Drosophila melanogaster*, and this species may be now considered as a model organism in gravitational biology studies dealing with aging.

InterSci

SCIENCE • VOL. 275 • 10 JANUARY 1997

## Reported case #2. Partial duplications

#### PHYTOTHERAPY RESEARCH Phytother. Res. 21, 135-141 (2007) Published online 24 November 2006 in Wiley InterScience (www.interscience.wiley.com) DOI: 10.1002/ptr.2010

#### Chemoprevention of Scutellaria bardata on **Human Cancer Cells and Tumorigenesis in Skin** Cancer

Seok-Jong Suh<sup>1</sup>, Jong-Won Yoon<sup>1,2</sup>, Tae-Kyun Lee<sup>3</sup>, Un-Ho Jin<sup>1</sup>, Sun-Lim Kim<sup>4</sup>, Myung-Sunny Kim5, Dae Young Kwon5, Young-Choon Lee6 and Cheorl-Ho Kim1\* sion and immortality can be applied. Progression in

invasion and metastasis but these fundamental features of human cancer occur infrequently in primary animal tumors. The process of chemical carcinogenesis can be divided into three general stages, and chemopreventive agents have been categorized according to the stage that they inhibit (Wattenberg, 1993). Our extract inhibits cellular events associated with tumor initiation, promotion and progression. The SB was identified on the basis of its ability to inhibit the cyclooxygenase activity of COX-1 (median effective dose  $ED_{50} = 25 \,\mu g/mL$ ), and this activity correlates with antitumor promotion. There was no effect on COX-2 activity (Fig. 1). Thus, the SB-mediated inhibition was specific for the cyclooxygenase activity of COX-1 (Fig. 1), an inducible form of the enzyme associated with responses such as inflammation (Gierse et al., 1995). Although its inhibitory activity was less than that of certain NSAIDs such as indomethacin (ED<sub>50</sub> =  $5 \mu M$ ), it was much greater than that mediated by compounds such as aspirin (ED<sub>50</sub> = 1200 µm). Also, unlike indomethacin and most other NSAIDs (Fig. 1), the SB inhibited the hydroperoxidase

## Cancer Chemopreventive Activity of Resveratrol, a Natural Product Derived from Grapes

Meishiang Jang, Lining Cai,\* George O. Udeani,

The process of chemical carcinogenesis can be divided into three general stages, and chemopreventive agents have been categorized according to the stage that they inhibit (6). Resveratrol inhibits cellular events associated with tumor initiation, promotion, and progression. As noted above, the compound was identified on the basis of its ability to inhibit the cyclooxygenase activity of COX-1 (median effective dose  $ED_{50} = 15 \mu M$ ) (Fig. 2A), and this activity correlates with antitumor promotion. Although its inhibitory activity was less than that of certain NSAIDs, such as indomethacin (ED<sub>50</sub> =  $2.3 \mu M$ ) (Fig. 2A), it was much greater than that mediated by compounds such as aspirin (ED<sub>50</sub> = 880 μM). Also, unlike indomethacin and most other NSAIDs, resveratrol inhibited the hydroperoxidase activity of COX-1 (ED<sub>50</sub> = 3.7 µM) (Fig. 2B). Resveratrol-mediated inhibition was specific for the cyclooxygenase activity of COX-1 because there was no discernable activity when oxygen uptake was assessed with COX-2 (Fig. 2A), an [http://bric.postech.ac.kr/myboard/read.php?Board=sori&id=20207]

## 3. Authorship extorted by owner of the hospital

조기 난소부전 환자에서 실시간 중합효소 연쇄 반응을 이용한 사립체 DNA copy 수의 정량적 분석

=ABSTRACT=



### rerunty and Stermity

Volume 84, Issue 6, December 2005, Pages 1712-1718



Reproductive endocrinology

### RETRACTED: Quantification of mitochondrial DNA using real-time polymerase chain reaction in patients with premature ovarian failure

Presented at the 60th Annual Meeting of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, October 16 –20, 2004.

Kwang-Yul Cha, M.D., Ph.D.<sup>a</sup>, State Lee, M.D., Ph.D.<sup>a,b</sup>, ♣ · ☑, Lee, M.D., Chung, Ph.D.<sup>c</sup>, Baek, Ph.D.<sup>c</sup>, Cho, M.S.<sup>b</sup>, M.S.<sup>b</sup>, M.S.<sup>b</sup>, Kwack, Ph.D.<sup>d</sup>

Available online 14 December 2005

사회 | [SUNDAY 추적] 원저자 대신 병원장이 제1 저자 된 이유는 Reason for a hospital director became the 1<sup>st</sup> author.

나도 한마디 (4) 기사

2007.05.20 02:58 입력

해외 언론이 주시하는 車병원 국제학술논문 법적 공방

### ₹%SUNDAY

Los Angeles Times | ARTICLE COLLECTIONS

있어요. 포천중( ← Back to Original Article 교수 등이 공동기

사라는 주장이 L Credit for U.S. journal article at issue

A leader of a Hollywood hospital's parent firm was listed as the fertility piece's main author. But a fellow Korean says it's a copy of his thesis.

February 18, 2007 | Charles Ornstein | Times Staff Writer

A prominent fertility scientist whose firm owns Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center in Los Angeles is embroiled in a plagiarism dispute that straddles two continents, has triggered legal battles in South Korea and has raised questions about the practices of a leading U.S. fertility journal.

Dr. Kwang-Yul Cha, whose company also owns fertility clinics and a large hospital in Seoul, is listed as the primary author on a medical paper that appeared in December 2005 in the U.S. medical journal Fertility and Sterility.

But that paper appears to be nearly a paragraph-for-paragraph, chart-for-chart copy of a junior researcher's doctoral thesis, which appeared in a Korean medical journal nearly two years earlier, according to a Times review of both papers and the findings of a Korean medical society.

Cha has denied any wrongdoing.

먼저 서울중앙지 The allegations mark the latest example of a challenge facing the editors of scientific journals: how to ensure that the work they print is honest and original. Doctors often base medical decisions on articles printed in such journals, and researchers similarly rely on them for their studies.

> In an international scandal in late 2005, the work of another South Korean scientist was exposed as fraudulent. Hwang Woo-Suk claimed to have created 11 stem cell lines from the DNA of sick and injured patients, publishing his work in the well-respected journal Science. But the articles had to be retracted after questions were raised about his claims, and he ultimately apologized.

http://article.joins.com/article/article.asp?ctg=12&total\_id=2732901

"2005년 미국

혐의로 서울중임

후배에게서 이린 할리우드 차병원

소한 사건이었다 국제기사로 짤미

미국 유력지인 국 '브리티시 메

한국 과학계의 ﴿ 보도가 없었다.

지'상태였다. 고

중지됐던 것이다

#### Problems raised

These research misconducts are causing

- 1. Waste of research funds and resources
- 2. Physical and economical loss and chaos in public
- 3. Public distrust to scientific and academic communities
- 4. Conflicts between colleagues and loss of peer-ship within research community
- 5. Breeding of disqualified researchers and loss of 2<sup>nd</sup> research generation
- 6. Inappropriate of scientific credit authorization

# 3. Research misconducts Now

- Statistics and some issues

### Statistics of research misconducts in Korean academia

#### Types of misconducts reported

	fabrication	falsification	plagiarism	Inappropriate authorship	duplication	ghostwriting	others	total
2007년	1	0	4	1	3	0	3	12
2008년	1	1	9	1	3	0	1	16
2009년	0	2	6	1	13	0	1	23
2010년	0	0	2	2	7	1	1	13
2011년	0	0	7	0	5	0	2	14
2012년	1	1	3	1	4	0	0	10
2013년	0	0	20	3	5	0	2	30
계	3	4	52	9	40	1	10	119

. In Jae Lee. Korean National Research Foundation.

## Materials to which misconduct were committed in different disciplines

대상 학문 분야	국가연구개발 사업 논문/보고서	석·박사 학위논문	교내 연구과제 논문/보고서	비 R&D 교외기관 지원 논문/보고서	학술 서	무응답	계
인문학	1	4	11	2	3	0	21
사회과학	1	2	7	8	5	0	23
자연과학	3	0	6	1	1	2	13
공학	6	3	7	2	5	0	23
의・약학	1	2	4	1	3	0	11
농・수・해양학	5	2	0	0	0	0	7
예술·체육학	0	6	9	0	2	0	17
복합학	0	1	3	0	0	0	4
À	17	20	47	14	19	2	119

2014. **Current Status of Academic Activities on Research Ethics**. In Jae Lee. Korean National Research Foundation.

#### Types of misconduct committed in different disciplines

분야 부정행위유형	인문학	사회과학	자연과학	공학	의•약학	농・수・해양학	예술·체육학	복합학	계
 위조	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	3
 변조	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	4
표절	10	14	4	7	5	1	9	2	52
부당한 저자 표시	1	2	1	3	1	0	1	0	9
자료의 중복 사용	9	5	4	11	2	2	5	2	40
논문 대필	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
기타	1	1	0	2	2	2	2	0	10
À	21	23	13	23	11	7	17	4	119

2014. **Current Status of Academic Activities on Research Ethics**. In Jae Lee. Korean National Research Foundation.

#### Status of person committed different types of misconduct

유형 신분	위조	변조	표절	부당한 저자 표시	자료중복 사용	논문대필	기타	계
 교수	3	3	38	8	40	1	9	102
전임 연구원	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
석·박사과정 대 학원 학생	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	12
행정직원·기타	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	4
——— Л	3	4	52	9	40	1	10	119

2014. **Current Status of Academic Activities on Research Ethics**. In Jae Lee. Korean National Research Foundation.

#### Measures taken

조치 연도	주 의	경고	견 책	감봉	정	해 임	타 면	연 구 비 회 수	논 문 철 회	연 구 참 여 제 한	승 진 상 불 이 익	보 수 에 반 영	학 위 취 소	임용취소	마 에 해	계
2007년 이전	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
2007년	0	3	2	3	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
2008년	1	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	2	2	0	1	3	0	1	16
2009년	5	5	0	1	1	1	2	3	1	3	0	0	0	0	1	23
2010년	4	1	3	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	13
2011년	3	2	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	2	14
2012년	1	1	0	0	2	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	10
2013년	2	7	1	1	2	0	0	4	0	1	0	0	4	1	7	30
Я	16	22	7	8	9	6	3	8	6	6	1	1	9	3	14	119

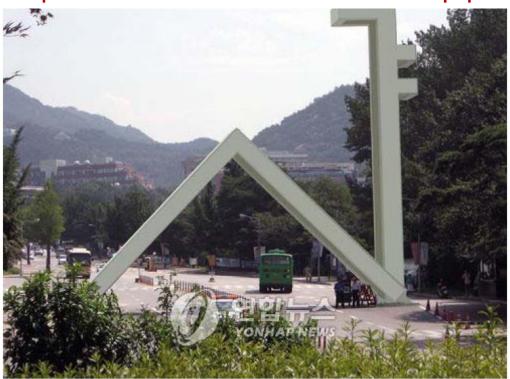
## Issue 1. Still, frauds are found in papers from decent universities



♨인쇄|◎닫기

서울대 "강수경 교수 논문 17편 조작 있었다"(종합2보)

SNU professor "Data fabrication identified in 17 papers"



2005년 줄기세포 논문 조작으로 세간을 떠들썩하게 한 황우석 전 서울대 교수와 대척점에 서있던 서울대 수의대 강수경 교수의 줄기세포 논문 17편에서도 연구 조작이 있었다는 조사 결과가 나왔다. 서울대 연구진실성위원회는 5일 오후 "처음 의혹이 제기된 강수경 교수의 14편의 논문 모두에서 위·변조를 포함해 고의적인 연구결과 조작이 있었으며 강 교수가 연구 결과 조작을 주도했음이 확인됐다"고 발표했다.(자료사진)

### Issue 2. Politicians losing face and trust due to plagiarism in their old theses

#### 중앙일보

# Kim, candidate of Minister of Education, accused of self plagiarism

[중앙일보] 입력 2017.06.19 06:07



지난 12일 김상곤 사회부총리 겸 교육부장관 후보자가 인사청문회 준비 사무실이 마련된 서울 여의도 교육시설공제회관으로 들어서고 있다. 강정현 기자

김상곤 사회부총리 겸 교육부 장관 후보자에 자기 논문을 출처 표시 없이 재인용했다는 의혹이 제기됐다.

Issue 3. Scientists frauds affect public life



#### MoneyWeek 뉴스 인쇄하기

#### ☞ 프린트

# SNU professor, alleged to direct fabrication in final report to Oxy

서대웅기자 | 입력: 2016.05.09 17:06



National Business Opinion Cult

#### National

#### Oxy researchers are in hot water

May 06,2016

Continuing a probe into Reckitt Benckiser Korea, the British manufacturer of a arrested a Seoul National University professor who allegedly received bribes fr company's Oxy sterilizers.

After prosecutors established a special investigation team early this year to loc government tests linking pulmonary illnesses and deaths to the inhalation of fa

Suspecting the reports were manipulated by university professors to favor Rec University professor surnamed Cho and banned a Hoseo University professor laboratories.

Cho had written reports for the Oxy manufacturer that stated "the causal relatio conducted tests under artificial conditions to produce favorable results for Reck. the sterilizer products, according to the prosecution.



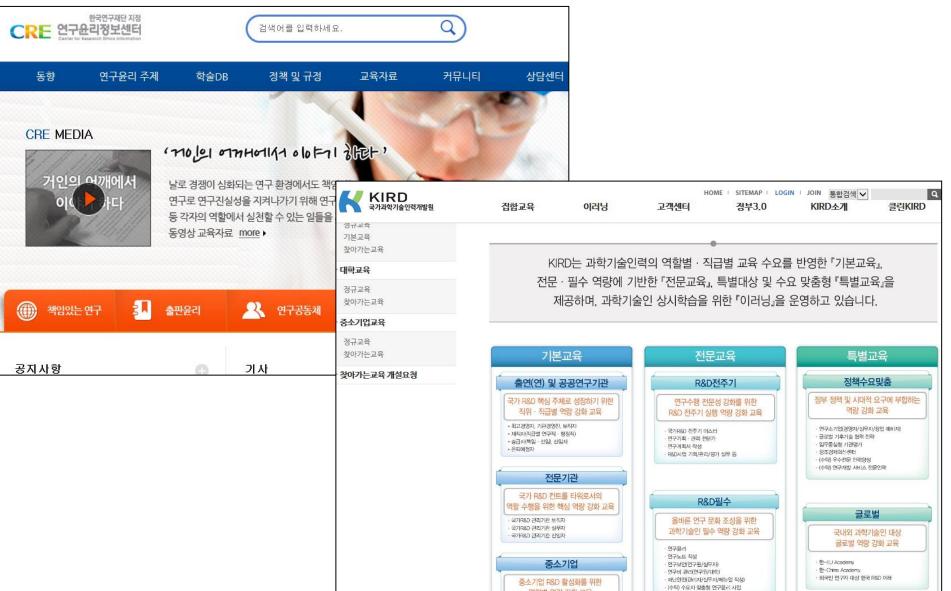
# 4. Efforts

## 1. Efforts and initiatives of government: guidelines and policies

- 1. 2007 Guidelines for Assurance of Research Ethics (Ministry of Science and Technology)
- 2. 2011 Guidelines for Research Notes (Executive Committee of the National Ministry of Science and Technology )
- 3. 2012 Regulations regarding co-management of nationally sponsored R & D projects (Ministry of Science and Technology)
- 4. 2012 Amendment to the Bioethics and Safety Act (Ministry of public health and welfare)
- 5. 2012~ Enhancement of responsibilities of the National Bioethics Committee (Ministry of public health and welfare)
- 6. 2012~ Amendment of the copyright law (Ministry of culture)copyrighted materials.
- 7. 2009~ Promotion of activities to increase awareness and education of research ethics in academia and their societies

# 2. Institutions established to promote research ethics education and information distribution

#### Center for Research ethics information



#### 3. Activities in academia

## **Current Status of Academic Activities on Research Ethics**

2014 Report on activities and awareness on research activities among 262 domestic universities and research institutes and 3077 researchers there

2014. 7.25. In Jae Lee. Korean National Research Foundation.

### Systems implemented

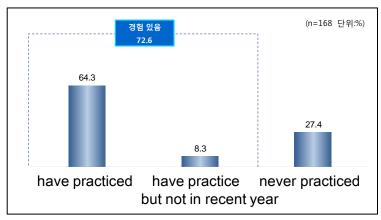
#### Research ethics-related rules and guidelines established

	Universties		universities
	implemented		implemented
2012	168개 (87.0%)	2013	149개 (88.7%)

#### Research ethics-related committees

tyes	implemented	not
Committee on research integrity	144(85.7%)	24(14.3%)
Internal Review Board on human research (IRB)	106(63.1%)	62(36.9%)
institutional animal care and use committee	73(43.5%)	95(58.5%)

#### Research ethics-related education



#### Institution-wide general practice of plagiarism detection

Universities and research institutes: Enforced check for duplication in thesis submission, term papers & reports

Korean journals: Recommended check for duplication in submitted manuscripts in journals

## iThenticate, CopyKiller



# 5. Prospect and conclusion

- 1. Education on research integrity (not only the ethics) is utmost important.
- 2. Establishment of a tradition in research integrity is also urgent.
- 3. A will of academia not the demand for clean research from public is important.