

10/23/99

I write this because I suspect that Dr. Anupam Bishayee, a Post-Doc working for Dr. Roger Howell, is fudging data and I do not believe that Roger is taking what I have told him seriously.

Monday, October 11, 1999: Anupam had started an experiment involving mutagenesis which would end today. If there had been no contamination, there should be 50 P100's ready to stain. I ask him during the day if he will stain them today and he replies that he is busy with other things but that he will stain them later. When I leave around 6 o'clock, I stop in to see if they have been stained and he says that they have not but they he will work late and do them later.

Tuesday, October 12, 1999: When I come in this morning, Anupam has not arrived. I go into the lab to look for the plates. There is no sign of them around the lab or in the trash. I look in the incubator and there is a tray containing 10 stacks of 5 p100's each and marked consecutively from 1 to 10. This is the expected numbering that would result from the experiment. I look at several plates by I-ball and under the microscope. I do not see any colonies. I know from my experience that cells that are not going to form colonies will lyse on about day 4 after plating leaving nuclei – this should be day 7. There are very few nuclei. I worry that these are the plates from the experiment and that Anupam miscounted resulting in too low cell numbers to get colonies. I also figure that he decided not to fix and stain them the night before because it had gotten too late. An extra day would not make any difference. He may also have become aware that they didn't have many, if any, colonies on them. When he comes in, I ask him how the experiment went and he says it went very well and he will give me the data later. I ask him what the plates are that are in the incubator and he replies that that is another experiment that he is working on. I know that the other experiments that he does do not utilize the p100's, they use the p60's. In fact, I have supplied the p100's for these experiments. He gives me the data later on and it is as predicted: the data for cells placed in aerobic conditions indicate more mutants than data for cells placed in hypoxic conditions. During the course of the experiment, cells must be plated and replated and the numbers must be carefully recorded in order to calculate the number of cell divisions the cells have undergone before they are challenged with the selection agent 6-TG. I ask Anupam for these data and he tells me he has them and will give them to me later.

Wednesday, October 13, 1999: Again I come in earlier than Anupam. I go to the incubator only to find the mysterious set of 50 p100's is no longer there. Again I search through the trash and around the lab and there is no sign of the plates. Anupam does not give me the missing data.

Tuesday, October 19, 1999: Roger has been sick but is now back at work. I relate to him the above events and tell him of my suspicions. He agrees that things sound pretty fishy. He says that he will ask Anupam for the missing data referred to above. I hear him do this later and I hear Anupam reply that he cannot lay his hands on the data because they are at home. Roger scolds him for taking data home.

From now on, I check when I can as to what is going on in Anupam's incubator. There is a set of p60's marked appropriately for the sorts of survival experiments that Anupam does. I don't see anything on these plates but they may be newly plated.

Thursday, October 21, 1999: I discuss the situation with Roger and he poo poos me saying that I never really did like Anupam in the first place. This is not true. I don't dislike him and I don't have it in for him. I do not know if Roger ever got the missing data from Anupam. Roger is pleased with Anupam's work because he faithfully turns out data regularly. He also thinks that Anupam is not smart enough to make up data.

I decide that, as much as possible, I will distance myself from Anupam's work. Until there is a logical explanation for the mysterious set of 50 p100's that should not have been in the incubator, I believe that Anupam made up the data for the mutagenesis arm of the experiment and I do not want to be associated with him.

Friday, October 22, 1999: Roger is analyzing some old data and finds that the RBE for  $^3\text{H}$  is at least three times greater than it should be. He will repeat these experiments himself to determine whether the data are real or not.

Saturday, October 23, 1999: I look in the incubator for the above mentioned p60's. They are gone. I check the trash. There are plates in the trash that still have pink medium in them which looks a bit cloudy and may be contaminated.