

Comment from Lulu Y. Chen

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I do not agree with Dr. Südhof's decision to retract the paper, due to "weird" image artifacts, though I understand why he feels it is necessary. I stand by & agree with his statement that the images do not affect the conclusions or analysis in the rest of the paper, & I look forward to reproducing this research in a future paper from my own lab. I do think it's unfortunate that Dr. Südhof is under continual attack, & I doubt that any retraction or response will satisfy his partisan & aggressive accusers.

I fear that this sort of hostile climate will deter future scientists from entering academia, especially women, minorities, & those currently underrepresented in the scientific community. While the biased & (in some cases) obviously economically motivated attackers claim to be interested in scientific purity & pursuit of the truth, the reality is they are killing careers. So far every case seems to be inexplicable or inadvertent errors, which are due either to honest mistakes or software glitches—and not the kind of fraud the self-appointed watchers are hunting for. The benefits of their efforts are dubious at best, but the collateral damage to scientists—actual people—is obvious.



This document is part of the article “[Second paper from lab of Nobel Prize winner to be retracted](#)” on *The Transmitter*, an essential resource for the neuroscience community, dedicated to helping scientists at all career stages stay current and build connections. Read more at thetransmitter.org.