

## Employees from BYHEALTH Got Publication without "Author Contributions"

Two employees with the BYHEALTH (汤臣倍健) Institute of Nutrition & Health, Xuguang Zhang and Ruikun He, were listed as co-authors for the article [1], however, their contributions were not disclosed on the Author Contribution section, raising concerns on their authorship to this article.

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Concerns on ethics approval, and author contributions

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The image shows a screenshot of a research article page from the journal *Psychiatry*. The article title is "Combined probiotics attenuate chronic unpredictable mild stress-induced depressive-like and anxiety-like behaviors in rats". The authors listed are Li Huang<sup>1,2†</sup>, Xia Lv<sup>1,2†</sup>, Xiaolei Ze<sup>3†</sup>, Zewei Ma<sup>1,2</sup>, Xuguang Zhang<sup>3</sup>, Ruikun He<sup>3</sup>, Junting Fan<sup>1,2</sup>, Meilin Zhang<sup>1,2</sup>, Boran Sun<sup>4,5</sup>, Fang Wang<sup>2</sup> and Huan Liu<sup>1,2\*</sup>. The article is dated 07 September 2022. Two red boxes highlight specific text: one around the authors' names, and another around the text "(CUMS-Flu, n = 9). The animal experiment was performed according to the National Institutes of Health Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. Approvals for the study were acquired from the Animal Ethical and Welfare Committee of Tianjin Nankai Hospital." A third red box highlights the "Author contributions" section, which states: "HL and XZe designed the research (project conception, development of overall research plan, and study oversight). LH and XL conducted the research (conduct of the experiment and data collection). ZM, JF, BS, MZ, and FW analyzed the data or performed the statistical analysis. LH, XL, and HL wrote the manuscript. HL had primary responsibility for the final content. All authors have read and approved the final version."

Another employee with the BYHEALTH (汤臣倍健) Institute of Nutrition & Health, Xiaolei Ze, was listed as the co-first author for the article [1], and his contributions were stated as "designed the research (project conception, development of overall research plan, and study oversight)". On the other hand, the other two co-first authors, Li Huang, and Xia Lv with Tianjin Medical University, "conducted the research (conduct of the experiment and data collection)".

Another concern was raised about the ethics approval for the study, which got involved in animal experiments. The article [1] stated that "approvals for the study were acquired from the

Animal Ethical and Welfare Committee of Tianjin Nankai Hospital", however, no author from Tianjin Nankai Hospital was listed on the article.

This study was partly funded by BYHEALTH (汤臣倍健), a dietary supplement manufacturer in China, and three of their employees were listed as authors. Since BYHEALTH (汤臣倍健) provides probiotics products to their customers, cautions should be played when interpreting the outcomes of this study.

[1] 10.3389/fpsy.2022.990465

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