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University of Eastern Finland investigated the activities of Professor Carsten Carlberg

The activities at the University of Eastern Finland of Professor **Carsten Carlberg** have been investigated by an Ad Hoc Ethical Committee which issued its statement on 31 August 2011. According to the statement, Professor Carlberg has neglected his obligations relating to the supervision of his research group, but there is no evidence of negligence of good scientific practice or fraud in science.

The Rector of the University of Eastern Finland **Perttu Vartiainen** appointed the committee in early June to investigate whether Professor Carsten Carlberg's activities at the University of Eastern Finland involve any infringement of good scientific practice. Earlier in 2011, the university investigated the activities of Ms **Tatjana Degenhardt**, a member of Professor Carlberg's research group. In that investigation, Ms Degenhardt was found guilty of manipulating her research data and her doctoral degree was revoked. At that time, the university did not investigate the activities of Professor Carlberg, because Ms Degenhardt assumed the sole responsibility for the fraud. Ms Degenhardt has explained that the reason for her manipulation of the research data was the pressure in Professor Carlberg's group to obtain results.

Professor Carlberg has held a professorship both at the University of Luxemburg and at the University of Eastern Finland. The University of Eastern Finland learned in spring 2011 that the University of Luxemburg has launched an investigation into Professor Carsten Carlberg's possible infringement of good scientific practice. After this, the Rector of the University of Eastern Finland decided to launch an investigation into Professor Carlberg's activities at the University of Eastern Finland as well. During the investigation of the matter, the Ad Hoc Ethical Committee heard Professor Carlberg, members of his research group, as well as other members of the research community.

According to the statement issued by the Ad Hoc Ethical Committee on 31 August 2011, the hearings have revealed shortcomings in the way Professor Carlberg has led his research group. These shortcomings have demonstrated themselves in the form of problems in the working atmosphere, insufficient guidance relating to the research processes and lack of confidence of certain people within the research community involved. Good scientific practice requires that good personnel management policy, among other things, be observed at all stages of the research process.

The Ad Hoc Ethical Committee concludes that Professor Carlberg has demonstrably neglected the obligations relating to supervision, but that there is no evidence of negligence of good scientific practice or fraud in science, as referred to in the guidelines on research ethics of the National Advisory Board on Research Ethics in Finland.

The committee suggests that the university should take the necessary measures to rectify the matters discovered, especially those relating to the working atmosphere. The committee further suggests that the university should review its instructions relating to the supervision of students and to make the necessary corrections in order to ensure high-quality supervision.

The chair of the committee was Academic Rector **Kalervo Väänänen**. The other members of the committee were Dean, Professor **Timo Jääskeläinen**, Professor (Emeritus) **Ossi V. Lindqvist**, Professor **Jorma Palvimo**, Professor **Risto Turunen**, and General Counsel **Petri Rintamäki**, who acted as the secretary to the committee.

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