

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of **Allah**, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

إِنَّمَا يَفْتَرِي الْكَاذِبُ الَّذِينَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ بِآيَاتِ اللَّهِ وَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْكَافِرُونَ ﴿النحل: ١٠٥﴾

*Indeed those who commit falsification do not believe in the signs of Allah;
It is them who are the perpetual liars. ﴿Quran 16:105﴾*

Dear Your Highness **Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan** [صاحب السمو الشيخ محمد بن زايد آل نهيان],

Scientific integrity is vital to the credibility and dignity of all academic institutions. It would tarnish the reputation of any prestigious university, such as **Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence** [جامعة محمد بن زايد للذكاء الاصطناعي] ("MBZUAI")¹, to employ someone with a history of falsification, fraud, and scientific misconduct.

Recent hires by MBZUAI include an unethical individual—**Hao Li**, Ph.D.²—who was determined to have committed various violations of the scientific code of conduct. The **University of Southern California** [جامعة كاليفورنيا الجنوبية] ("USC")³ has conducted a full investigation of Li's scientific misconduct since 2018, the results of which have been summarized in a 490-page report and published online.⁴

Upon examining Li's computers, hard drives, and research software code, USC's investigation committee found that Li committed falsification⁵, intentional misrepresentation⁶, and research misconduct⁷. Moreover, Li attempted to destroy the evidence by deleting research data on his university issued devices.⁸

In addition to not disclosing these findings to MBZUAI, on information and belief, Li has further deceived MBZUAI into offering him an associate professor position through additional misrepresentations:

- Termination of Li's employment from USC was involuntary, contrary to his representations to the press⁹ and on social media¹⁰. According to Dr. **Kristen Grace**—USC's Research Integrity Officer who has also confirmed Li's research misconduct in writing¹¹—termination of Li's employment at USC was not voluntary and Li "did not resign."¹²
- Li was not employed by the **University of California Berkeley** [جامعة كاليفورنيا في بيركلي] ("UC Berkeley")¹³ and did not hold any official title from the university, contrary to his representations on his resume¹⁴ and social media¹⁵. According to Dr. **Trevor Darrell**,¹⁶ other than collaborating with UC Berkeley researchers and receiving an informal title from one of the faculties, Li did not hold any official employment or title from the university.¹⁷ In fact, Li's name and informal title were removed from UC Berkeley's website around the time USC report was published online.¹⁸

Falsification and dishonesty have no place in academia and are condemned by Allah. I truly hope that this letter would be a step toward protecting the academic reputation of MBZUAI, safeguarding scientific integrity around the globe, and adherence to the teachings of the Quran and Sharia of Allah.

Sincerely,

Iman Sadeghi, Ph.D. [دكتور ايمان صادقي]

August 7, 2022

References:

- [1] MBZUAI's website:
<https://mbzuai.ac.ae>
<https://mbzuai.ac.ae/about/leadership>
- [2] Hao Li's faculty profile at MBZUAI:
<https://mbzuai.ac.ae/study/faculty/dr-hao-li>
- [3] USC's Office of Research Integrity ("ORI"):
<https://usc.edu>
<https://ori.usc.edu>
ori@usc.edu
- [4] USC 's report on Hao Li's scientific misconduct:
<http://sadeghi.com/USC-Report> (490 pages)
<http://sadeghi.com/USC-Report-Summary> (112 pages)
<https://pdfhost.io/search?text=USC+Report> (30,000+ views)
<https://filelink.org/fS497IOJoaVpMrF> (10,000+ downloads)
<https://medium.com/@/ff875060d01e> (posted March 18, 2022)
- [5] USC report's "Investigation Committee Findings" section at page USC000012:
<http://sadeghi.com/USC-Report#findings>
- [6] USC report's "Investigation Committee Findings" section at page USC000012:
<http://sadeghi.com/USC-Report#findings>
- [7] USC report's "Summary" section at page USC000013:
<http://sadeghi.com/USC-Report#summary>
- [8] USC report's Attachments 9 and 10 from page USC000408 to USC000419:
<http://sadeghi.com/USC-Report#att9>
<http://sadeghi.com/USC-Report#att10>
- [9] FXGuide on June 1, 2020 stating that Hao Li allegedly "resigned" from USC:
<https://www.fxguide.com/xf/featured/pinscreens-advanced-face-ai-neural-rendering>
- [10] Hao Li's social media on May 25, 2020:
<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:share:6670867420930031616>
- [11] USC emails confirming Hao Li's "research misconduct":
<http://sadeghi.com/USC-Emails>
- [12] Kristen Grace, M.D., Ph.D., Research Integrity Officer, ORI, USC:
<https://research.usc.edu/about/leadership/#ori>
gracekri@usc.edu
- [13] UC Berkeley's Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences ("EECS"):
<https://berkeley.edu>,
<https://eecs.berkeley.edu>
- [14] Hao Li's resume listing UC Berkeley as an alleged "position":
<http://www.hao-li.com/documents/resume.pdf>
- [15] Hao Li's social media listing UC Berkeley as an alleged "employment":
<http://orcid.org/0000-0002-4019-3420>
- [16] Trevor Darrell, Ph.D., Professor, EECS Department, UC Berkeley:
<https://people.eecs.berkeley.edu/~trevor>
trevor@eecs.berkeley.edu,
- [17] UC Berkeley emails concerning Hao Li and his "informal title":
<http://sadeghi.com/UCBerkeley-Emails>
- [18] As of January 6, 2022, Hao Li's name and informal title were listed:
<http://web.archive.org/web/20220106070115/https://people.eecs.berkeley.edu/~kanazawa>
As of March 3, 2022, Hao Li's name and informal title were removed:
<http://web.archive.org/web/20220303082838/https://people.eecs.berkeley.edu/~kanazawa>