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Retraction concerning the E2 protein of human papillovirus type 16: Overexpression and purification of an active transcriptional regulator [Lees, M. E., Dreissen, H. P. C., Crawford, L. V. & Clarke, A. R. (1990) *Eur. J. Biochem. 190*, 85–92.]

Expression of the human papillovirus type 16 E2 protein in *Escherichia coli*

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Confirmation that the molecule previously reported [1] was human papilloma virus type 16 (HPV 16) E2 protein has not been obtained. This protein had many of the properties expected of E2, including size, specific binding to oligonucleotide columns of ACCGNNNNCGGT polymers and reaction with anti-peptide sera raised against E2 peptides [2]. However, the plasmid in current stocks of pKK-7 appears to contain a fragment of the *Escherichia coli* β-galactosidase gene and to express a protein of approximately 43 kDa. The N-terminal sequence of this polypeptide (Hibma, M. and Pappin, A., unpublished results) corresponds to the first 20 amino acids of β-galactosidase. New constructs of HPV 16 E2, generated by polymerase-chain-reaction cloning, have been made and are being characterised in detail. This should allow resolution of these uncertainties, but until that is done the properties of the protein purified as E2 and described previously [1] should not be taken to be those of E2.

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Abbreviation. HPV 16, human papilloma virus type 16.

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