EXPRESSION OF CONCERN

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HMGB1 promotes the secretion of multiple cytokines and potentiates the osteogenic differentiation of mesenchymal stem cells through the Ras/MAPK signaling pathway

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Subsequently to the publication of the above article, a concerned reader has drawn the Editor's attention to the fact that an inappropriately selected antibody was reported to have been used to probe for phosphorylated ERK (or p-ERK) in the western blot experiments shown in Fig. 4 on p. 3945: The catalogue number for the antibody was reported in the Materials and methods section to have been ab65142 (purchased from Abcam), whereas this antibody does not target p-ERK, but protein kinase RNA-like ER kinase (also known as EIF2AK3), having the acronym 'PERK'. It was also noted that the p38 and ERK blots included in Fig. 4 were strikingly similar, suggesting that certain of the data in this figure may have been selected incorrectly.

The authors have been contacted by the Editorial Office to offer an explanation for both the apparently inappropriate selection of an antibody in this paper and the incorrect assembly of data in Fig. 4, and we are awaiting their response. Owing to the fact that the Editorial Office has been made aware of these potential issues surrounding the scientific integrity of this paper, we are issuing an Expression of Concern to notify readers of these potential problems while the Editorial Office continues to investigate this matter further.