Inquiry re a Distinguished Fellow at UC Berkeley

Iman Sadeghi <sadeghi@gmail.com>   Thu, May 20, 2021 at 4:46 PM
To: trevor@eecs.berkeley.edu

Dear Prof. Darrell,

Would you be able to please confirm whether Dr. Hao Li is indeed a "Distinguished Fellow" at
UC Berkeley as stated on his profiles [1]?

I could not find his name nor his title on UC Berkeley's directories [2].

Regards,
-Iman Sadeghi, PhD
858-444-6175

[1]
http://www.hao-li.com
http://people.eecs.berkeley.edu/~hao.li
https://www.linkedin.com/in/lihao

[2]
https://www2.eecs.berkeley.edu/Directories/directory-nostudents.html#L_people
https://www2.eecs.berkeley.edu/Faculty/Lists/faculty.html#L
https://vcresearch.berkeley.edu/faculty-expertise?name=Hao+Li&description=&kw=&
department=All

Trevor Darrell <trevor@eecs.berkeley.edu>   Fri, May 21, 2021 at 8:20 AM
To: Iman Sadeghi <sadeghi@gmail.com>
Cc: Jitendra Malik <malik@eecs.berkeley.edu>, Shirley SALANIO <shirleysalanio@berkeley.edu>,
Bennett Agnew <bennettagnew@berkeley.edu>, Angjoo Kanazawa <kanazawa@berkeley.edu>

Dr. Sadeghi,

I can confirm that Dr. Li is collaborating with the computer vision groups at Berkeley, via
collaboration with my lab and with Prof. Kanazawa's lab. In association with her collaboration
with Dr. Li, Prof Kanazawa offered him the informal title of Distinguished Fellow of her group,
and by extension, the computer vision group at Berkeley. So it seems accurate to me, and
would not be a title that would show up in departmental or campus wide lists.

Sincerely,

Prof. Trevor Darrell

+ eecs-chair@eecs.berkeley.edu

Dear Prof. Darrell,

Thank you for clarifying that Dr. Hao Li's "Distinguished Fellow" title is an informal title offered by Dr. Kanazawa and not an official title from the university. This information is currently misrepresented by Li as he has listed this title under positions he holds [1] and as an employment position at UC Berkeley [2].

Regardless, offering such a title to any individual from a highly respected academic institution, such as UC Berkeley, would require proper due diligence.

I would assume that, at the time, Dr. Kanazawa was not aware that the Office of Research at the University of Southern California (USC) has been investigating Li's scientific misconduct since 2018. On December 9, 2019, Dr. Kristen Grace—USC's Research Integrity Officer (RIO) —confirmed in writing that Li committed "misrepresentation," "falsification, and research misconduct" during ACM SIGGRAPH Real-Time Live (RTL) 2017. These violations are against the universal scientific code of ethics including USC's code of conduct [3]. Subsequently, Li's employment at USC has been terminated as of June 2020.

I would also assume that Li has falsely represented to Dr. Kanazawa that he has resigned from his position at USC. However, on June 5, 2020, Dr. Kristen Grace confirmed that the termination of Li's employment from USC was not voluntary and that Li "did not resign".

> <u>Kristen Grace, M.D., Ph.D.</u>
> Research Integrity Officer
> Office of Research, USC
> Phone: (213) 821 7297
> E-mail: gracekri@usc.edu

Please let me know if any of my assumptions above are incorrect. And now that Li is associated with UC Berkeley, he is subject to its scientific code of conduct, which also condemns falsification and data fabrication, and therefore subject to investigation by UC Berkeley's VCR and RIO. [4]

Given the above information, please let me know if Dr. Kanazawa, the Computer Vision group, and the EECS department at UC Berkeley would be willing to reconsider the misinformed decision of offering Dr. Li the informal title of a "Distinguished Fellow". Please also let me know if you need any more information or evidence to properly address this research compliance issue and to take appropriate action.

Regards,
-Iman Sadeghi, Ph.D.
858-444-6175

[1] http://www.hao-li.com/documents/resume.pdf
[2] https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4019-3420
[3] https://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct/
[4] https://vcresearch.berkeley.edu/research-policies/research-compliance/research-misconduct

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Trevor Darrell <trevor@eecs.berkeley.edu>   Fri, Jun 11, 2021 at 12:31 PM
To: Iman Sadeghi <sadeghi@gmail.com>
Cc: "EECS Chairs etc." <eecs-chair@eecs.berkeley.edu>, Jitendra Malik
<malik@eecs.berkeley.edu>, Shirley SALANIO <shirleysalanio@berkeley.edu>, Bennett Agnew
<bennettagnew@berkeley.edu>, Angjoo Kanazawa <kanazawa@berkeley.edu>

   I was unaware of the issues you raise below, and I have no way to assess them independently
   myself. We will forward your email to the office of the vice chancellor for research at UC
   Berkeley and we will ask them to consult with their research integrity counterparts at USC and
   will follow their guidance as to whether Dr. Li is or is not restricted from working with UC
   Berkeley researchers.

Iman Sadeghi <sadeghi@gmail.com>   Fri, Jun 11, 2021 at 4:13 PM
To: Trevor Darrell <trevor@eecs.berkeley.edu>
Cc: "EECS Chairs etc." <eecs-chair@eecs.berkeley.edu>, Jitendra Malik
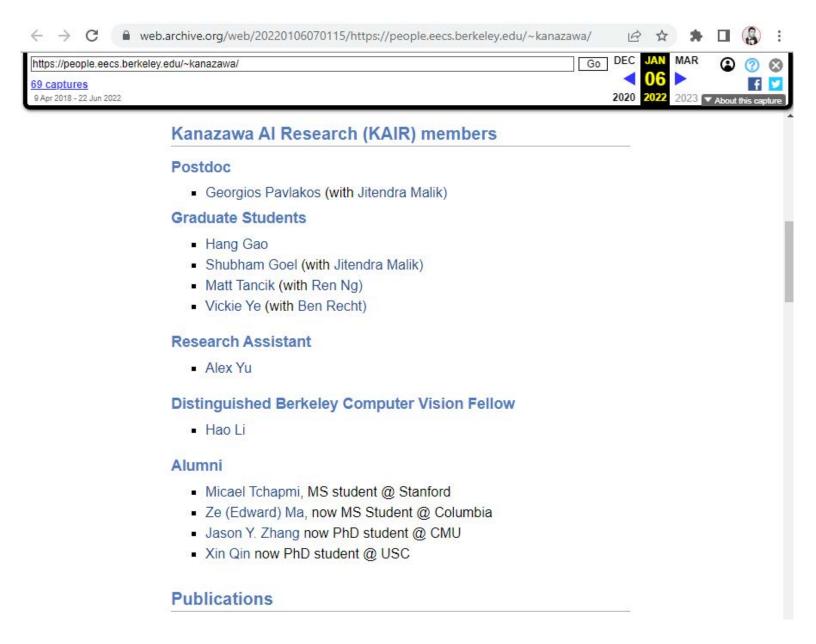<malik@eecs.berkeley.edu>, Shirley SALANIO <shirleysalanio@berkeley.edu>, Bennett Agnew
<bennettagnew@berkeley.edu>, Angjoo Kanazawa <kanazawa@berkeley.edu>
Bcc: Iman Sadeghi <sadeghi@gmail.com>

   Thank you for your response. I also believe that involving UC Berkeley's VCR and RIO is a
   move in the right direction to resolve this research compliance issue. To the extent
   permissible, please keep me posted.

   In addition to the question you raised—whether Li is restricted from participating in UC
   Berkeley's research projects—there is the question of whether offering and failing to revoke
   the informal title of "Distinguished Fellow" to someone with a history of falsification, data
   fabrication, and research misconduct is itself against the spirit of the Code.

   Regards,
   -Iman Sadeghi, PhD
   858-444-6175

Dr. Anjoo Kanazawa's website listed Hao Li as a "Distinguished Berkeley Computer Vision Fellow" as of January 6, 2022:

https://web.archive.org/web/20220106070115/https://people.eecs.berkeley.edu/~kanazawa/

Kanazawa AI Research (KAIR) members

Postdoc

- Georgios Pavlakos (with Jitendra Malik)

Graduate Students

- Hang Gao
- Shubham Goel (with Jitendra Malik)
- Matt Tancik (with Ren Ng)
- Vickie Ye (with Ben Recht)

Research Assistant

- Alex Yu

Distinguished Berkeley Computer Vision Fellow

- Hao Li

Alumni

- Micael Tchapmi, MS student @ Stanford
- Ze (Edward) Ma, now MS Student @ Columbia
- Jason Y. Zhang now PhD student @ CMU
- Xin Qin now PhD student @ USC

Publications

Subsequently, Hao Li's name and title were removed as of March 3, 2022:

https://web.archive.org/web/20220303082838/https://people.eecs.berkeley.edu/~kanazawa/

Kanazawa AI Research (KAIR) members

Postdoc

- Georgios Pavlakos (with Jitendra Malik)

Graduate Students

- Shubham Goel (with Jitendra Malik)
- Vickie Ye (with Ben Recht)
- Hang Gao
- Matt Tancik (with Ren Ng)
- Evonne Ng (with Trevor Darrell)
- Ruilong Li
- Ethan Weber

Alumni

- Alex Yu, Luma AI
- Micael Tchapmi, MS student @ Stanford
- Ze (Edward) Ma, now MS Student @ Columbia
- Jason Y. Zhang now PhD student @ CMU
- Xin Qin now PhD student @ USC

Publications