

Retracted STAP stem cell papers first rejected at another journal; reviewers' comments now public

Before the two STAP cell papers were published in *Nature* in January of 2014, much of the same data was reportedly submitted as single papers to other high-profile journals including *Science*.

In these cases, the proto-STAP papers as we might call them were rejected.

But why?

Until now we largely could only speculate.

However, the reviews of the 2012 proto-STAP manuscript at *Science* can now be read [at Retraction Watch](#).

As a result of reading the *Science* reviews, today we know what the reviewers at *Science* thought in 2012 of this proto-STAP paper and this sheds much light on what went so terribly wrong with STAP overall. There were many big red flags. Keep in mind that the *Nature* reviewers would not know about the *Science* reviews unless by chance one or more of the reviewers for *Nature* had also participated in the review process at *Science*.

Read the full, original story: [Full reviews of rejected STAP paper point to early signs of big trouble](#)