Research Practices

Our study "Professional practices among biomedical scientists: A study of a sample generated by an unusual event" was mentioned in a recent News & Comment article by Eliot Marshall (31 Oct., p. 535). Marshall indicates that we studied the Darsee affair, but our focus was actually different: we examined the research practices of his 47 coauthors. Because our report is unpublished, many readers may not realize that its subject is not research fraud by an individual. Instead, we looked for evidence of questionable practices that are less extreme, perhaps more common, and may in aggregate have more effect on the integrity of the scientific literature than outright research fraud. Another point: the term we use for describing unearned authorship is "honorary." It is referred to erroneously in Marshall's article as "honorific."

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Erratum: In the report "The color of the surface of Venus" by C. M. Pieters *et al.* (12 Dec., p. 1379), figure 2 on page 1382 was incorrectly printed upside down. The correct figure and caption appear below. Reference 11 in the caption is to A. S. Selivanov *et al.*, *Kosm. Issled.* **21**, 176 (1983) and A. S. Selivanov *et al.*, *ibid.*, p. 183.

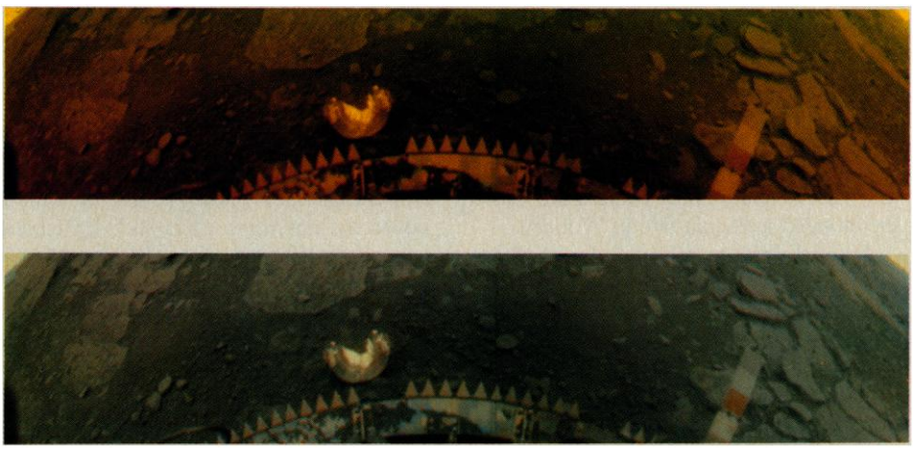

Fig. 2. Venera 13 color panorama for the surface of Venus. (Upper panel) This reproduction is similar to that originally published (*11*) and is comparable to the actual appearance of the scene at visible wavelengths. The orange hue is due to the diffuse incident radiation from which blue radiation has been efficiently removed by the thick Venus atmosphere. (Lower panel) The same color panorama data reprocessed to remove the effects of the strongly colored incident radiation. This image represents the surface of Venus as it would appear in "white light" illumination, that is, without the interference of an atmosphere.