

Supplemental Notification Regarding Dr. Michael Levin – Request for Investigation and Urgent Action to Protect Scholarly Record aostachuk < aostachuk@evolutio.ar >

Agustin Ostachuk < aostachuk@evolutio.ar >

Mon, 16 Mar 2026 12:44:51 PM -0300

To "Johnson, Kirby L." <Kirby.Johnson@tufts.edu>
Cc "Myatt, Theodore Alan" <Theodore.Myatt@tufts.edu>
Bcc "aostachuk" <aostachuk@gmail.com>

Dear Dr. Johnson,

I am writing to supplement my previous notifications to your office (February 16, February 24, and March 4, 2026) regarding the unresolved matter of unattributed substantial similarity between my 2020 Evolutio Unfolding Theory (EUT) and the 2025 "Platonic Space" framework being promoted by Dr. Michael Levin.

I wish to be clear that this communication is a supplemental notification and a request for action, **not a formal complaint of research misconduct**. I am providing additional context and making specific requests based on the evidence already submitted, while reserving the right to file a formal complaint at a later date should that become necessary.

1. Status of Your Evaluation

To date, I have received acknowledgment of my notifications but no indication of the status of your office's evaluation. As the book chapter containing the contested material is nearing publication, I respectfully request a formal update on:

- Whether your office has concluded its preliminary assessment.
- If so, what determination was reached.
- If not, a timeline for when a determination can be expected.

2. Confirmation of Forthcoming Publication Details

Since my last communication, I have confirmed additional details regarding the forthcoming publication. Specifically, I have identified that the originating conference was hosted at the **California Institute of Integral Studies (CIIS)**, and the volume is being edited by **Matthew Segall**, a faculty member at that institution. This confirmation allows for more targeted action to protect the scholarly record before the final "Version of Record" is established.

To allow your office to fulfill its investigatory role before the creation of a permanent record, I formally request that Tufts University:

- **Identify the contracted publisher** of this volume, if known to Dr. Levin or

your office.

- **Contact the publisher directly** to formally apprise them of this pending dispute and the existence of my published comparative analysis (attached in my previous email), thereby placing them on notice.

This action is consistent with Tufts' obligation to protect the integrity of research associated with its faculty.

3. The Need for a Formal Inquiry

The evidence before your office is, in my view, sufficient to move from a preliminary "evaluation" to a formal "inquiry". As documented:

- My work was published and timestamped in 2020.
- Dr. Levin was made aware of my work in February 2021 (attached correspondence in my previous email).
- A detailed, citable analysis documents the structural equivalence between the two frameworks (Ostachuk, 2025, PhilPapers, attached in my previous email).
- Public promotion of the contested framework continued after your office was notified, including a major podcast on February 24, 2026 (after my first notification), framing "Platonic Space" as Dr. Levin's "most radical hypothesis yet".

I formally request that your office initiate a formal inquiry into this matter. A neutral, third-party investigation is the only mechanism that can establish the facts and determine whether Tufts' own definition of research misconduct (plagiarism) has been violated.

4. Request for Interim Measures

To preserve the integrity of any potential future investigation and to prevent irreparable harm to the scholarly record, I request that your office advise Dr. Levin to:

- Voluntarily refrain from further publication or promotion of the contested framework until a determination has been made.
- Preserve all records related to the development of the "Platonic Space" framework, including correspondence, drafts, and data, consistent with Tufts' policy on sequestration of research records.

5. Request for a Formal Response

Finally, I request a formal response to the evidence I have submitted. Specifically, I ask that your office provide a written assessment of whether the documented structural equivalence, combined with the evidence of prior awareness, meets the threshold for a finding of plagiarism under Tufts' policy.

Summary of Requests

To facilitate your review, I summarize my formal requests below:

1. **Status Update:** Provide the current status of your evaluation and a timeline for its completion.
2. **Publisher Notification:** Identify the publisher of the forthcoming volume and formally apprise them of this dispute.
3. **Formal Inquiry:** Initiate a formal inquiry into the allegation of unattributed substantial similarity.
4. **Interim Measures:** Advise Dr. Levin to halt further promotion/publication and preserve all relevant records.
5. **Formal Response:** Provide a written assessment of the evidence in relation to Tufts' definition of research misconduct.

I await your prompt acknowledgment of this supplemental notification and your response to these requests. The integrity of the scholarly record, and the reputation of the institutions involved, depend on timely and decisive action.

Sincerely,

Dr. Agustín Ostachuk

Transdisciplinary Scientific Researcher

Director

EVOLUTIO: A Research Center for Evolution and Development

<https://www.evolutio.ar>

From: Agustin Ostachuk <aostachuk@evolutio.ar>
To: "Johnson, Kirby L." <Kirby.Johnson@tufts.edu>
Cc: "Myatt, Theodore Alan" <Theodore.Myatt@tufts.edu>
Date: Wed, 04 Mar 2026 16:42:03 -0300
Subject: Notification Regarding Dr. Michael Levin – Evidence, Analysis, and the Historical Record

Dear Dr. Johnson,

Thank you for your continued engagement with this matter. I write now to place on the official record the complete evidence and my analysis of it, and to clarify my position regarding next steps.

1. Evidence Submitted for Your Evaluation

I am providing the full evidentiary basis for your office's evaluation:

- **Awareness:** Complete correspondence from February 2021, in which I contacted Dr. Levin directly to propose collaboration on further developing my Evolutio Unfolding Theory (EUT). He acknowledged receipt and stated he would review my work. (Attached)
- **Priority:** My original 2020 publication, "A Theory of Evolution as a Process of

Unfolding", *Cosmos and History*. (Attached)

- **Structural Overlap:** My published comparative analysis, "Evolutio Unfolding Theory and 'Platonic Space': On Conceptual Priority and Lineage", which documents the structural identity of the two frameworks. (Attached)
- **Visibility:** Documentation of over 13,000 downloads across PhilPeople and Nature platforms, establishing that my work was widely known and accessible throughout the relevant period. (Attached)

2. What This Evidence Establishes

The evidence, considered together, demonstrates **the appropriation of an entire theoretical framework's explanatory architecture, renamed and presented as novel without attribution**. This falls squarely within the definition of **plagiarism** in Tufts' Research Misconduct Policy: "the appropriation of another person's ideas, processes, results, or words without giving appropriate credit".

I state this plainly because the evidence is plain. The conclusion is not a matter of interpretation; it follows necessarily from the facts.

3. On the Timing of a Formal Complaint

I will not file a formal complaint at this time. I will do so when the book chapter or any other "official" publication of Dr. Levin's "Platonic Space" framework appears. This is not a delay; it is a choice to act when the record is complete and the stakes are highest.

4. What Continued Publication Would Mean

If Dr. Levin proceeds with publication after this notification, the situation will be transformed. He will have persisted not only despite multiple warnings, but also after I reported his misconduct to the very office charged with overseeing research integrity at Tufts. This would demonstrate either:

- That the university took no effective measures to prevent the dissemination of appropriated work, raising questions of institutional protection or complicity, or
- That Dr. Levin operates outside the university's oversight, indifferent to its policies and processes.

Both possibilities will be documented in the public record. I raise them not as accusations, but as facts that would follow inevitably from the sequence of events.

5. The Historical Record and the Lineage Observatory

My theory is not obscure. It has been downloaded over 13,000 times on PhilPeople and Nature platforms alone. Dr. Levin cannot claim ignorance, amnesia, or lack of access.

Every attempt he makes to promote and disseminate a framework that structurally replicates mine will be:

- A matter of public record

- Another entry in my **Conceptual Lineage Ethical Observatory**, an independent initiative documenting conceptual lineage distortions in the historical record
- Further evidence of a pattern that speaks for itself

If Dr. Levin proceeds with publication, I will file a formal complaint. Whether or not he publishes, I will continue the work of the Observatory: documenting the relationship between his "Platonic Space" framework and my prior work, independent of his choices. The historical record is already complete enough for that documentation to proceed.

6. The Decision You Must Make: Which Side of History Will You Stand On?

Your office now has all the evidence. You have the 2020 priority, the 2021 awareness, the structural identity, and the visibility metrics. You know what this evidence means.

The historical record is already settled. Any attempt to market a rebranded version of this architecture is not just personal damage; it is above all damage to the public scientific lineage and historical record. The only question that remains is which side of history the university will stand on.

I am not seeking a ruling at this time. I am placing the evidence before you and waiting. The choice of what happens next lies with Dr. Levin, and with your office's response to whatever he does.

Sincerely,

Dr. Agustín Ostachuk

Transdisciplinary Scientific Researcher

Director

EVOLUTIO: A Research Center for Evolution and Development

<https://www.evolutio.ar>

From: Johnson, Kirby L. <Kirby.Johnson@tufts.edu>
To: "Agustin Ostachuk" <aostachuk@evolutio.ar>
Cc: "Myatt, Theodore Alan" <Theodore.Myatt@tufts.edu>
Date: Fri, 27 Feb 2026 18:49:43 -0300
Subject: Re: [External] RE: Notification Regarding Potential Research Integrity Matter Involving Dr. Michael Levin

Dear Dr. Ostachuk,

Thank you for the additional information.

In response to your first point, my office took your initial communication to be, as you indicated, a notification of the allegations you have made against Dr. Levin. The first institutional step in these situations is to evaluate, or assess, the allegations to determine if additional actions are warranted. To clarify our institutional processes, "investigation" refers to the final step in a research misconduct

proceeding, with research misconduct representing fabrication, falsification, and plagiarism (<https://viceprovost.tufts.edu/research-integrity-and-misconduct-research-policy-procedures-and-reporting>). While this communication and your initial one did not indicate it, do you wish to make a formal allegation of research misconduct against Dr. Levin? Or are you alleging unethical behavior that falls outside of the definition of research misconduct?

In response to your second point, final publication is not necessary for my office to evaluate allegations of unethical research behavior, including research misconduct, and to execute any additional actions that are warranted based on this evaluation.

Thank you for the information included in your third point, and please send any additional evidence, including that of interactions with Dr. Levin in 2021, that you believe support your allegations.

Sincerely,

Kirby L. Johnson, Ph.D.

Director of Research Ethics
Office of the Vice Provost for Research

Associate Professor of Pediatrics
Tufts University School of Medicine

From: Agustin Ostachuk <aostachuk@evolutio.ar>
Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2026 10:01 AM
To: Johnson, Kirby L. <Kirby.Johnson@tufts.edu>
Cc: Myatt, Theodore Alan <Theodore.Myatt@tufts.edu>
Subject: [External] RE: Notification Regarding Potential Research Integrity Matter Involving Dr. Michael Levin

Dear Dr. Johnson,

Thank you for your response. I am writing to seek clarification on several points and to ensure that my position is clearly understood as your office begins its evaluation.

1. Status of This Matter

Your email states that my notification has been received and that you "will appropriately evaluate the issues". Could you please clarify whether this means that a formal complaint has been filed and that an investigation is now underway? Or does this language refer to a preliminary assessment to determine whether a formal complaint is warranted?

2. Timing and Scope of Evaluation

I understand that the "Platonic Space" framework has so far appeared only in preprint form and in YouTube lectures and podcasts, and that a book chapter is forthcoming. Can an investigation into this matter be initiated based on these materials, or must your office wait until the framework appears in a final, published work?

3. The Nature of the Violation

I want to be absolutely clear about what is at stake. This is not a case of a missing citation that can be corrected by adding a footnote. The "Platonic Space" framework, as presented, reproduces the core explanatory architecture of my 2020 Evolutio

Unfolding Theory. A citation would not undo this appropriation; it would merely stamp it as a precedent.

The situation is further aggravated by the fact that, in numerous public interviews (available on YouTube), on his personal website, and in the preprint itself, Dr. Levin repeatedly describes the "Platonic Space" framework as a "novel" theory and an "original contribution" of which he is the "creator". He has made these claims despite having been made aware of the existence and content of my 2020 theory through our direct professional contact in 2021.

From my perspective, the only appropriate remedy is the retraction of all materials (preprint, videos) associated with the "Platonic Space" framework, and the withdrawal of the forthcoming book chapter and any future attempt of publication on the matter. Anything less would leave the violation intact and would not address the fundamental issue of conceptual appropriation.

I am prepared to provide any additional documentation that may assist your office, including evidence of my 2021 contact with Dr. Levin. Please let me know if such materials would be helpful at this stage.

I appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to your clarification.

Sincerely,

Dr. Agustín Ostachuk

Transdisciplinary Scientific Researcher

Director

EVOLUTIO: A Research Center for Evolution and Development

<https://www.evolutio.ar>

From: Johnson, Kirby L. <Kirby.Johnson@tufts.edu>

To: "Agustin Ostachuk" <aostachuk@evolutio.ar>

Date: Mon, 23 Feb 2026 14:25:54 -0300

Subject: RE: [External] Notification Regarding Potential Research Integrity Matter Involving Dr. Michael Levin

Dear Dr. Ostachuk,

Thank you for contacting my office regarding your concerns. Tufts University holds our entire research community to the highest of ethical standards, and we take all allegations of this kind very seriously. This response serves to confirm the notification you have provided, and we will appropriately evaluate the issues you have raised.

Thank you for providing the document that presents a comparison between your Evolutio Unfolding Theory and Dr. Levin's Platonic Space framework. Please get in touch if you have any additional information or documentation to share, if you have any additional concerns involving Dr. Levin's research that you want to include with this notification, or if you have any questions or concerns regarding Tufts University's approach to research ethics and integrity.

Sincerely,

Kirby L. Johnson, Ph.D.

Director of Research Ethics
Office of the Vice Provost for Research

Associate Professor of Pediatrics
Tufts University School of Medicine

From: Agustin Ostachuk <aostachuk@evolutio.ar>
Sent: Monday, February 16, 2026 2:45 PM
To: Myatt, Theodore Alan <Theodore.Myatt@tufts.edu>; Johnson, Kirby L. <Kirby.Johnson@tufts.edu>
Subject: [External] Notification Regarding Potential Research Integrity Matter Involving Dr. Michael Levin

To the Tufts University Research Integrity Office,

I am writing to notify the university of a situation involving Dr. Michael Levin, a faculty member at Tufts, that may merit attention under your research integrity policies.

On April 28, 2020, I published "A Theory of Evolution as a Process of Unfolding" in the peer-reviewed journal *Cosmos and History*. This article established a theoretical framework that has since been developed in subsequent publications, including empirical work in *Nature Scientific Reports*.

I had various email exchanges with Michael Levin in 2021 to propose his participation in a grant proposal specifically aimed at further developing this theory. Therefore, Michael Levin is well aware of the existence and content of this theory.

Since early 2025, Michael Levin has disseminated a framework he terms "Platonic Space" through a preprint and numerous public presentations, including on YouTube. This framework bears substantial structural similarity to the theory I published in 2020. I am aware that a book chapter presenting this framework is forthcoming.

I am not requesting an investigation at this time. However, I believe the university should be aware of these facts—my priority, his prior awareness, and the substantial overlap—prior to the final publication of this work, as they bear on the integrity of the scholarly record and Michael Levin's affiliation with Tufts.

I will provide no further documentation at this stage. This letter serves solely as a notification.

Sincerely,

Dr. Agustín Ostachuk
Transdisciplinary Scientific Researcher
Director
EVOLUTIO: A Research Center for Evolution and Development
<https://www.evolutio.ar>

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