

# RESEARCH TRAINEES

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT RESEARCH MISCONDUCT

### Misconduct Is Not Limited to Published Research

Research misconduct is fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism<sup>1</sup> and can occur in publications, presentations, posters, and grant applications – whether they are funded or unfunded.

### Research Misconduct Affects Everyone

Tainted research can have negative implications on individuals in the lab, the larger research community, and in the public's trust in science.

### There Is a Professional You Can Contact

Most institutions refer to this person as the Research Integrity Officer (RIO)<sup>2</sup>. You can contact your RIO about questionable practices.

### Anyone Can Report Misconduct

Scientists are obligated to point out errors regardless of their position in the lab. The research community depends on you to report misconduct.

### Institutions Have Policies to Protect All Involved

Every institution has a requirement to take all reasonable and practical steps to protect the reputation of those who report research misconduct and anyone falsely accused.

### You Can Report Research Misconduct Anonymously

Anyone can contact ORI anonymously by phone or email to address concerns.

 240-453-8800  
 AskORI@hhs.gov

### Of ORI's research misconduct cases<sup>3</sup>:

**12%** were reported by research trainees

**40%** were committed by research trainees

<sup>1</sup> For the full definition of research misconduct, see 42 C.F.R. § 93.103.

<sup>2</sup> RIOs may have other titles, such as Chief Compliance Officer, Director of Compliance, Vice President/Dean of Research, or Director of Integrity.

<sup>3</sup> Statistics based on closed ORI case findings from 2011–2015. Trainees are students and postdoctoral fellows.

Learn more about responsible research at: [ori.hhs.gov](http://ori.hhs.gov)

