



YOU SUSPECT RESEARCH MISCONDUCT NOW WHAT?

IF YOU ARE SUSPICIOUS

AVOID CONFRONTATION

Direct confrontation may lead to retaliation and/or tampering with evidence.

KEEP NOTES

Document details and save communications related to the misconduct. This will help you recall important information needed by the institution.

EDUCATE YOURSELF

Read your institution's research misconduct policy or contact the U.S. Office of Research Integrity (ORI) with questions.

SEEK SUPPORT

You may want to get advice from someone you trust to help you consider all options.

CONSULT YOUR RESEARCH INTEGRITY OFFICER (RIO)

RIOs can help you better understand the situation. You can speak in hypotheticals as you consider making an official allegation.

THINGS TO CONSIDER

REPORTING MISCONDUCT IS DIFFICULT...BUT IT CAN BE WORTH IT.

PEOPLE OFTEN WORRY ABOUT:

- ✦ The reputation and career of the accused
- ✦ How others in the lab will be affected
- ✦ Implications for their own career
- ✦ Possible retaliation

REPORTING MISCONDUCT HELPS:

- ✦ Prevent false and misleading information from entering the research record
- ✦ Correct the scientific literature
- ✦ Ensure funding is awarded to responsible research
- ✦ Protect the public's trust in science

WHEN YOU REPORT

BE SPECIFIC

Provide the RIO with specific examples of suspected misconduct and where it occurred (e.g. manuscripts, presentations, posters, grant applications, etc.).

BE PREPARED FOR SILENCE

Institutional policies may limit your access to confidential information about research misconduct proceedings.

BE AVAILABLE

The RIO may require your help identifying and examining evidence, explaining how the research was falsified, fabricated, or plagiarized, and cooperating as a witness.

BE PATIENT

Research misconduct proceedings take considerable effort and time to complete.

MAKE AN INFORMED DECISION

If you want to talk anonymously or report misconduct contact ORI at 240-453-8800 or askORI@hhs.gov.

