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.

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.

WHAT 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 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 PREPARED FOR SILENCE
Institutional policies may limit your access to confidential information about research misconduct proceedings.

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.