You suspect research misconduct

**NOW WHAT?**

**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.

**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.