RESEARCH TRAINEES
WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT RESEARCH MISCONDUCT

Misconduct Is Not Limited to Published Research
Research misconduct is fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism 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). 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.

Of ORI’s research misconduct cases:

- 12% were reported by research trainees
- 40% were committed by research trainees

Learn more about responsible research at: ori.hhs.gov

1 For the full definition of research misconduct, see 42 C.F.R. § 93.103.
2 RIOs may have other titles, such as Chief Compliance Officer, Director of Compliance, Vice President/Dean of Research, or Director of Integrity.
3 Statistics based on closed ORI case findings from 2011–2015. Trainees are students and postdoctoral fellows.