DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Office of the Secretary

Findings of Research Misconduct

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Findings of research misconduct have been made against William W. Cruikshank, Ph.D. (Respondent), former Professor of Medicine, Pulmonary Center, Boston University (BU) School of Medicine. Dr. Cruikshank engaged in research misconduct in research supported by National Cancer Institute (NCI), National Institutes of Health (NIH), grant R01 CA122737–01A2. The administrative actions, including debarment for a period of five (5) years, were implemented beginning on May 13, 2019, and are detailed below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Wanda K. Jones, Dr. P.H., Interim Director, Office of Research Integrity, 1101 Wootton Parkway, Suite 750, Rockville, MD 20852, (240) 453–8200.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given that the Office of Research Integrity (ORI) has taken final action in the following case: William W. Cruikshank, Ph.D., Boston University School of Medicine: Based on the report of an investigation conducted by BU and analysis conducted by ORI in its oversight review, ORI found that Dr. William W. Cruikshank, former Professor of Medicine, Pulmonary Center, BU School of Medicine, engaged in research misconduct in research supported by NCI, NIH, grant R01 CA122737–01A2.


R01 CA122737–01A1 and R01 CA122737–01A2.

Respondent knowingly, intentionally, and recklessly falsified and/or fabricated Western blot data for protein expression in primary CD4+ T cells from patients with advanced T-cell acute lymphocytic leukemia (T–ALL) or cutaneous T-cell lymphomas (CTCL), by copying blot band images from unrelated sources, manipulating to disguise their origin, and combining multiple images to generate new figures to falsely represent results using sixty-four (64) such band images in the following sixteen (16) figures and related text included in one (1) manuscript, one (1) published paper, two (2) grant applications, and a seminar presentation:

• Figures 1 and 3 in JCI 2011, also included as Figure 3 (top and bottom right) in R01 CA122737–01A2 and as Figures 1 and 4 in the initial JCI manuscript, respectively
• Figure 8B in JCI 2011, also included as Figure 9 in R01 CA122737–01A2
• Figure 9 in JCI 2011
• Figures 14A and 14B in R01 CA122737–01A2, also included as Figure 14B in R01 CA122737–01A1
• Figure 4 in R01 CA122737–01A2, also included as Figure 4 in R01 CA122737–01A1
• Slides 24, 25, and 29 in the CREST Presentation

Specifically:
• In Figure 3 in JCI 2011, also included as Figure 4 in the JCI manuscript and Slide 24 of the CREST Presentation (with no white spaces between bands) as well as Figure 3 (top right section with the tubulin panel flipped 180° clockwise) in R01 CA122737–01A2, the respondent reused a single Western blot band image to represent expression of tubulin and Pro-IL–16 in more than one experimental and control subjects.

• In Figure 1 in JCI 2011, also included as Figure 1 in the JCI manuscript. Figure 3 (bottom panel) in R01 CA122737–01A2, and in Slide 25 of the CREST Presentation, the respondent copied blot band images from unpublished and/or previously published unrelated experiments and reused a single Western blot band image to falsely represent expression of p27Kip1 and Skp2 in more than one CTCL Patient.
• The respondent reused and relabeled blot band images from unpublished and/or previously published unrelated experiments to falsely represent new experimental results as follows: ➢ Four band images from the unpublished and unrelated figure
Six band images from Figure 5B in a paper published in Biochemistry referred to as ‘‘motif that regulates nuclear localization.’’

In Figure 14A in R01 CA122737–01A2, respondent falsely reused GFP-Pro-IL–16 band images of ‘‘Knockdown of HSC70 in Jurkat cells and Hut78 cells’’ as FOXO1 protein expression in human T-cells stimulated with IL–16.

In Figure 14B in R01 CA122737–01A1 and R01 CA122737–01A2, respondent falsely reused band images from Figure 5B in Biochemistry 2002 as FOXO1 protein expression in human T-cells stimulated with IL–16.

In Figure 8B in R01 CA122737–01A2 and Slide 29 in the CREST Presentation, respondent falsely reused band images of ‘‘Knockdown of Heat shock cognate 71 kDa protein (HSC70) in Jurkat cells in Figure 6 in the first submission of the JCI manuscript, Figure 6 in JCI 2011, and Figure 10 in R01 CA122737–01A2 (also included as Slide 27 in the CREST Presentation)’’

In Figure 10, respondent falsely reused band images of the AKT and phospho-AKT expression and the control samples in Figure 5 in JCI 2011 as AKT and HSC70.

Dr. Crouchshank entered into a Voluntary Exclusion Agreement (Agreement) and voluntarily agreed for a period of five (5) years, beginning on May 13, 2019:

1. To exclude himself from any contracting or subcontracting with any agency of the United States Government and from eligibility for or involvement in nonprocurement programs of the United States Government referred to as ‘‘covered transactions’’ pursuant to HHS’ Implementation (2 CFR part 376) of OMB Guidelines to Agencies on HHS’ Implementation (2 CFR part 180) of OMB Guidelines to Agencies on Suspension, 2 CFR part 180 (collectively the ‘‘Debarment Regulations’’); and
2. To exclude himself from serving in any advisory capacity to PHS including, but not limited to, service on any PHS advisory committee, board, and/or peer review committee, or as a consultant.

Wanda K. Jones, Interim Director, Office of Research Integrity.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Cancer Institute; Notice of Meeting

Pursuant to section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, notice is hereby given of the following meeting.

The meeting will be held as a teleconference only and is open to the public to dial-in for participation. Individuals who plan to dial-in to the meeting and need special assistance or other reasonable accommodations in order to do so, should notify the Contact Person listed below in advance of the meeting.

Name of Committee: National Cancer Institute Clinical Trials and Translational Research Advisory Committee; Translational Research Strategy Subcommittee (TRSS).

Date: June 19, 2019.

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.


Contact Person: Peter Ujhazy, MD, Ph.D., Deputy Associate Director, Translational Research Program, Division of Cancer Treatment and Diagnosis, National Institutes of Health, National Cancer Institute, 9609 Medical Center Drive, Room 3W106, Rockville, MD 20850, 240–276–5681, ujhazy@nih.gov.

Any interested person may file written comments with the committee by forwarding the statement to the Contact Person listed on