Office of Research Integrity (ORI)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

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Annual Report
CY 2024

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RESEARCH MISCONDUCT PROCEEDINGS

Calendar Year 2024

Cases Continued from Previous Years

38

Allegations Received

713

Open Cases

ORI opens a case when the office receives a completed investigation report from an institution.

Cases Opened

117

Total Closures

119

Note: Calendar Year (CY) 2024 is January 1, 2024-December 31, 2024. Some of the cases and allegations that were closed in CY 2024 were opened in previous years. "Total Closures" represents the total number of closed cases (80) and administrative closures (39) for CY 2024.

Total Closures

Pre-investigation Closures

Administrative Closures[1]

Closed

39

Post-investigation Closures

No Finding of Research Misconduct[2]

31

Findings of Research Misconduct

6

Decline to Pursue[3]

DTP

43

Number of PHS Findings of Research Misconduct by Type
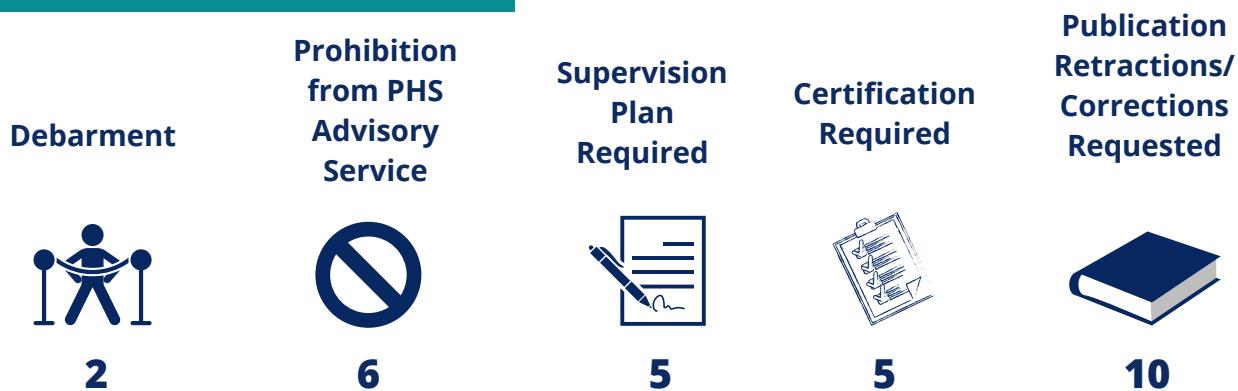
Falsification/ Fabrication

FALSIFIED + FAKE

5

Falsification, Fabrication, & Plagiarism

FAKE FALSIFIED

1

See the research misconduct case summaries! **Click Here** ori.hhs.gov/ case_summary

Administrative Actions

Debarment	Prohibition from PHS Advisory Service	Supervision Plan Required	Certification Required	Publication Retractions/ Corrections Requested
2	6	5	5	10

Note: Some cases had multiple administrative actions. Some of the cases closed in CY 2024 had been opened in previous years. Debarments are government-wide. Supervision plans are for PHS-funded research.

[1]Generally, an administrative closure involves a case that resolved during the assessment or inquiry stage of the institutional proceeding in which ORI concurred with the institution's determination that there was insufficient evidence to warrant further investigation.

[2]A no finding of research misconduct closure involves a case in which the institution conducted an investigation and determined that research misconduct did not occur. Based on a preponderance of the evidence during its oversight review, ORI concurred with the institution's determination.

[3]A Decline to Pursue (DTP) closure involves a case in which an institution found that research misconduct occurred and may implement administrative actions against the respondent, but during its oversight review, ORI determined that a separate PHS finding of research misconduct was not warranted and/or the institutional administrative actions were sufficient. ORI's DTP closure does not diminish the authority of the institution to draw its own conclusion about scientific or professional misconduct by the respondent.

1134 Technical Assistance Sessions Provided by ORI

ORI's Rapid Response for Technical Assistance (RRTA) program provides technical assistance and procedural guidance to institutions responding to allegations of research misconduct that involve Public Health Service (PHS)-funded research. The goals of the RRTA program are to facilitate high-quality and well-documented investigations, help resolve research misconduct cases promptly, and ensure that institutional proceedings meet the requirements under the PPHS Policies on Research Misconduct (42 C.F.R. Part 93). for ORI's oversight review. ORI provides technical assistance on topics including:

- Sequestration of records
- Forensic analyses
- Image enhancement and statistical analyses of data
- Handling allegations and preliminary assessments
- Handling complainants, respondents, and witnesses
- Voluntary admissions
- Referral/notification to other federal agencies or institutions
- Review of institutional research misconduct proceedings
- Whistleblower and retaliation issues

COMPLIANCE

Compliance Review Program

- Ensures that institutions comply with their policies and the PHS Policies on Research Misconduct ([42 C.F.R. Part 93](#)) when responding to allegations of research misconduct
- Monitors the implementation of PHS administrative actions
- Responds to retaliation complaints from whistleblowers
- Responds to instances of noncompliance by requiring specified corrective actions be taken

12 Compliance review cases handled in CY 2024

Continued into CY 2024	New in CY 2024	Closed in CY 2024	Continued into CY 2025
7	5	5	7

Assurance Program

The Assurance and Compliance Program is responsible for monitoring institutional compliance with the PHS Policies on Research Misconduct (42 C.F.R. 93).

An institution is eligible to receive PHS biomedical or behavioral research funding when it has an active assurance on file with ORI stating that it has developed research misconduct policies and will comply with the PHS Policies on Research Misconduct ([42 C.F.R. Part 93](#)).

ORI reviewed over

6,000

institutional assurance records in CY 2024

Activities related to the management of these records include (but are not limited to):

- Working with institutions and federal grant management specialists at PHS funding components to resolve account holds that may impact the release of funding to an institution
- Establishing and reviewing institutional ORI Assurance Records and providing technical assistance to Annual Report System users (e.g., assisting with login username and password resets, etc.)
- Providing support to institutions as they prepare and submit their electronic Annual Report on Possible Research Misconduct
- Reviewing annual institutional submissions (e.g., Annual Report on Possible Research Misconduct, institutional full policy review, small institution statements, foreign institution statements, etc.)

GRANTS PROGRAM

Ensuring Research Integrity - Conferences (IR-ORI-24-001)

This opportunity supported projects to plan and implement conferences or workshops related to ensuring research integrity and compliance with [42 C.F.R. Part 93](#). Virtual conferences and workshops were eligible for funding.

2024 Grant Awards

Title: Cultivating Research Integrity: Essential for Transitioning from a Community Hospital into an Academic Medical Center
Grantee: Reading Hospital
Project Leader: Wei Du, MD (PI)

Title: Fostering Research Integrity through Effective Education for RCR Program Administrators
Grantee: University of Illinois
Project Leader: Christopher Lehmann, PhD (PI)

Title: Promoting Excellence: A Hybrid Conference on Research Integrity and Responsible Conduct of Research in Nigeria
Grantee: Institute of Human Virology, Nigeria
Project Leader: Charles Olalekan Mensah, PhD (PI)

Title: The Three Is: Biosecurity & Research Integrity Conference
Grantee: North Carolina Association for Biomedical Research
Project Leader: Suzanne Wood Wilkison (PI)
Conference Website: https://www.ncabr.org/researchers/three-is-2025/

4 New Grants

$196,305 Awarded

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