

Office of Research Integrity (ORI)

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services



Annual Report

2025



TABLE OF CONTENTS

03	Letter From the Director
04	Research Misconduct Proceedings
05	Assurance and Compliance
07	Grants Program
09	Public Engagement
10	Communications
11	Contact Us

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



ORI Continues to Advance Research Integrity Through Oversight, Education, and Partnership.

In 2025, the Office of Research Integrity (ORI) continued working with institutions, researchers, publishers, and federal partners to strengthen research integrity and support rigorous, transparent, and accountable stewardship of federally funded research. ORI remains committed to fostering research environments grounded in integrity, collaboration, accountability, and public trust.

Research integrity cannot exist in isolation or be addressed only when problems arise. It must be part of the everyday culture of research — reflected in mentorship, leadership, professional development, publication practices, data stewardship, and the responsible conduct of research across the research enterprise.

Throughout the year, ORI supported stakeholders through education, outreach, guidance development, and collaborative engagement. ORI released new guidance documents to assist stakeholders in implementing the revised regulation.

Supporting the research community through education and prevention remained a central priority. ORI significantly expanded these efforts in 2025 by publishing three funding opportunities and increasing research integrity grant funding to over \$1 million to support initiatives focused on addressing emerging challenges related to artificial intelligence, research transparency, mentorship, and data management practices. ORI also launched an updated Research Integrity Officer (RIO) Boot Camp aligned with the revised regulations and co-hosted the inaugural National Conference on Research Integrity in Chicago, bringing together institutional leaders, researchers, publishers, funders, and government partners to advance dialogue on research integrity and responsible research practices.

ORI also continued its oversight responsibilities under 42 CFR Part 93. In 2025, ORI increased the number of case closures from the previous year while continuing to support institutions in addressing allegations of research misconduct through assessment, inquiry, investigation, and corrective action processes. ORI received 446 allegations of possible research misconduct, opened 147 oversight cases, and closed 177 matters during the year. ORI managed more than 6,000 institutional assurance records and reviewed 18 institutional compliance matters.

We recognize that most researchers supported by Public Health Service funding are committed to conducting high-quality, ethical, and impactful research that benefits the public. ORI remains committed to working collaboratively with the research community to strengthen research culture, promote the responsible conduct of research, and restore public trust in science.

We are proud of the work reflected in this report and grateful for the continued partnership of the research community in advancing research integrity.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sheila Garrity".

Sheila R. Garrity, JD, MPH, MBA
Director, Office of Research Integrity

RESEARCH MISCONDUCT PROCEEDINGS

Calendar Year 2025

Cases Continued from Previous Years



231

Allegations Received



446

Cases Opened



147

Total Closures



177

Open Cases

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

Note: Calendar Year (CY) 2025 is January 1, 2025-December 31, 2025. Some of the cases and allegations that were closed in CY 2025 were opened in previous years. "Total Closures" represents the total number of closed cases (127) and administrative closures (50) for CY 2025.

Total Closures

Pre-investigation Closures

Administrative Closures¹



50

Post-investigation Closures

No Finding of Research Misconduct²



43

Decline to Pursue³



82

Findings of Research Misconduct



2

See the research misconduct case summaries!
[Click Here](https://ori.hhs.gov/case_summary)
ori.hhs.gov/case_summary

Note: Some cases had multiple administrative actions. Some cases closed in CY 2025 had been opened in previous years. Debarments are government-wide. Supervision plans are for PHS-funded research.

¹Generally, an administrative closure involves a case that was 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.

²A 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.

³A 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 ORI 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.

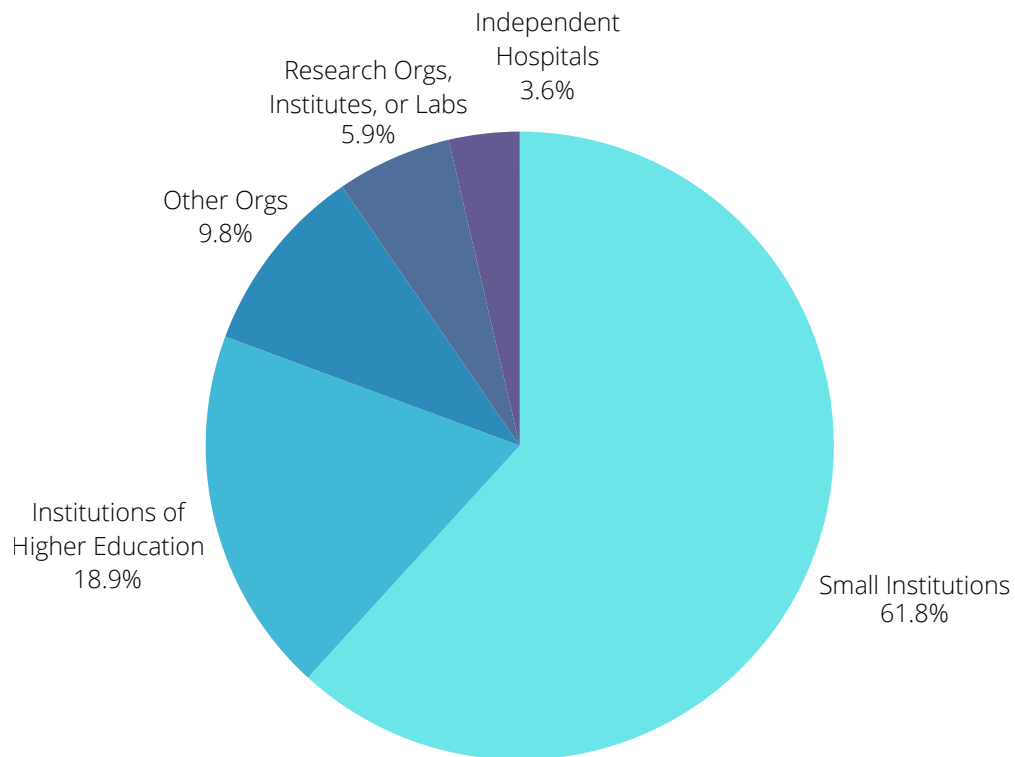
ASSURANCE AND COMPLIANCE

Assurance Program

The ORI [Assurance Program](#) supports institutional accountability under [42 CFR Part 93](#) by ensuring that organizations receiving PHS support maintain compliant policies and procedures for addressing allegations of research misconduct.



Breakdown of Institutional Assurances



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

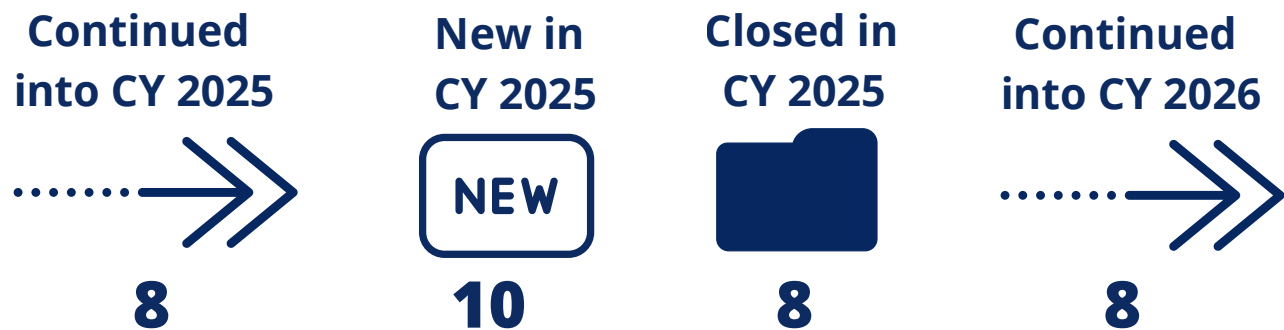
- Working with institutions and federal grant management specialists at PHS funding components to resolve account holds that may impact the release of funding to an institution
- Providing support to institutions as they prepare and submit their electronic Annual Report on Possible Research Misconduct
- Reviewing annual institutional submissions (e.g., Annual Report on Possible Research Misconduct, institutional full policy review, small institution statements, foreign institution statements, etc.)

ASSURANCE AND COMPLIANCE

Compliance Review Program

ORI's [Compliance Review Program](#) oversees institutional implementation of [42 CFR Part 93](#) to ensure that allegations of research misconduct are reviewed and resolved in accordance with federal requirements.

18 Compliance review cases handled in CY 2025



Activities related to this program include (but are not limited to):

- Ensuring that institutions comply with their policies and procedures and the PHS Policies on Research Misconduct ([42 CFR Part 93](#)) when responding to allegations of research misconduct
- Monitoring the implementation of HHS administrative actions
- Responding to retaliation complaints from whistleblowers
- Responding to instances of noncompliance by requiring specified corrective actions be taken

GRANTS PROGRAM

Summary of CY 2025 Activities

Compared to the 2024 funding cycle, in 2025 ORI issued two additional Notices of Funding Opportunities. ORI grants programs were allocated \$550,000 in additional funds. The program was revised to align with current administration policies ensuring that health research, the foundation for programs like [Make America Healthy Again](#), are conducted transparently and rigorously. All funded programs are intended to help ensure compliance with [42 CFR Part 93](#).

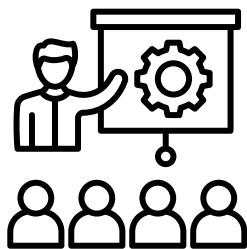


[ORI funding opportunities](#) include three programs:

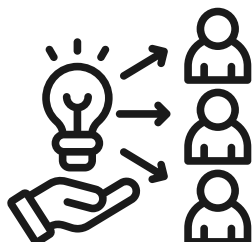
- Research on Research Integrity Program (RRI)
- Program Development and Evaluation Program (PDE)
- Conferences and Workshop Program (CWP)



The purpose of the RRI grant program is to foster empirical research on societal, organizational, group, and individual factors that affect, both positively and negatively, integrity in research. Studies in this area include examining how individual skills and institutional climates influence ethical behavior, moving beyond mere rule compliance (IR-ORI-25-0082) and investigating ethical challenges related to AI affecting authorship, transparency, disclosure, and fairness (IR-ORI-25-0083).



The PDE program supports projects for the development and implementation of innovative approaches and tools to promote research integrity and prevent misconduct. ORI-sponsored research for this program includes evaluation and dissemination of the Data Management Standard Operating Procedures (DMSOP) Toolkit (IR-ORI-25-0085) and development of a dual-intervention program for mentorship and leadership training program called Advancing Research Integrity through Structured Education in the Inland Empire (ARISE-IE) (IR-ORI-25-0086).



The CWP program supports the planning and execution of conferences and workshops that promote the responsible conduct of research and disseminate research findings on research integrity. For this program, ORI sponsored a one-day hybrid conference bringing together faculty, staff, librarians, trainees, and administrators to foster dialogue on partnering to address contemporary research integrity issues (IR-ORI-25-0084).

GRANTS PROGRAM

Number of
Applications
Received



51

Number of
Grants Funded



5

Funding
Opportunities
Published



3

5 New Grants

\$1,072,817 Awarded

2025 Grant Awards

Beyond Compliance: Advancing Research Integrity through Climate Data, Interpersonal Skills, and Institutional Insight

Grantee: Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois

Principal Investigator: CK Gunsalus

Funding Opportunity: IR-ORI-25-001

Research Accountability and Integrity for Sustainable Ethics in AI (R.A.I.S.E.): A Mixed-Methods Study of Faculty Practices and Institutional Responses

Grantee: University of South Florida

Principal Investigator: Amy Vargo, PhD (PI)

Funding Opportunity: IR-ORI-25-001

Evaluating and Dissemination of the Data Management Standard Operating Procedures (DMSOP) Toolkit

Grantee: The University of Maryland, College Park

Principal Investigator: Min Qi Wang, PhD (PI)

Funding Opportunity: IR-ORI-25-003

Advancing Research Integrity through Structured Education in the Inland Empire (ARISE-IE): A Dual-Intervention Program for Mentorship and Leadership Training

Grantee: California University of Science and Medicine

Principal Investigator: Edith Wakida, PhD (PI)

Funding Opportunity: IR-ORI-25-003

Bridging Ethics, Compliance, and Integrity in Research Practice

Grantee: The Pennsylvania State University

Principal Investigator: Courtney Karmelita, D.Ed (PI)

Funding Opportunity: IR-ORI-25-002

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT



Core to ORI's mission is to help institutions foster a research environment that promotes research integrity and the responsible conduct of research. [ORI co-sponsored events](#) contribute to this mission by providing education, training, and/or the opportunity for discussion related to topics such as handling allegations of research misconduct and fostering research integrity and the responsible conduct of research.

Research Integrity Officer (RIO) Boot Camp - August 2025

- First pilot Boot Camp held at ORI offices in Rockville, MD, with substantive curriculum updates
- 29 participants (31 including teaching RIOs) from large institutions
 - Attendees: 13 general counsel (6 new to RIO work), 10 new RIOs, 8 RIOs with less than 1 year experience
- Updated curriculum aligned with revised 42 CFR Part 93
- Participants requested advanced "Boot Camp 2.0" sessions focused on practical application including interview techniques, report writing, and role-playing scenarios
 - In response to this feedback, ORI is developing an Advanced Boot Camp, coming soon

First National Conference on Research Integrity - May 2025

Key Themes and Highlights

- Build a culture of research integrity by focusing on responsible research practices, complete reporting, open science, and collaboration through professional networks
- Incentivize and increase the visibility of research integrity practices and improving professional development at research institutions
- Share responsibility across the research ecosystem through institutions focusing on reproducibility and communicating results effectively, funders helping researchers manage scope and externally validating results, and publishers fostering collaboration among their peers to improve standards
- Acknowledge that cultures of research integrity are more likely to spread through the focused engagement of senior institutional leadership
- Focus on pragmatic, implementable goals tailored to specific institutional contexts

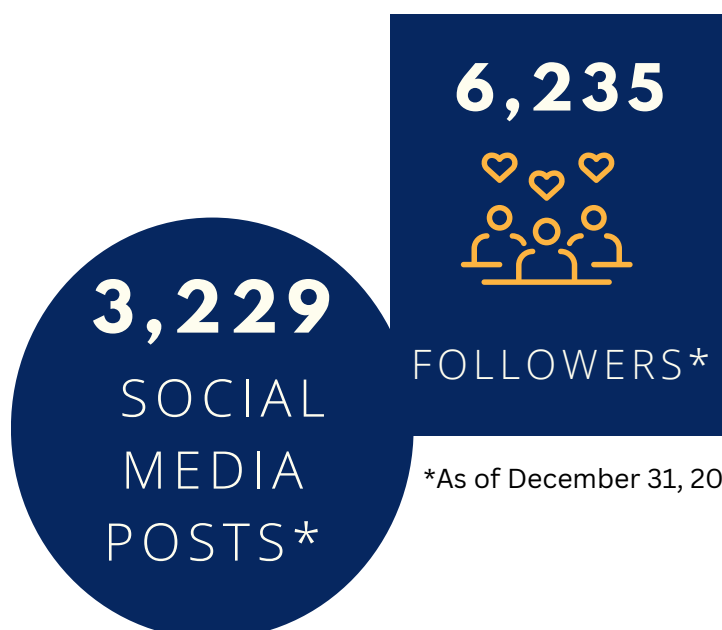
COMMUNICATIONS



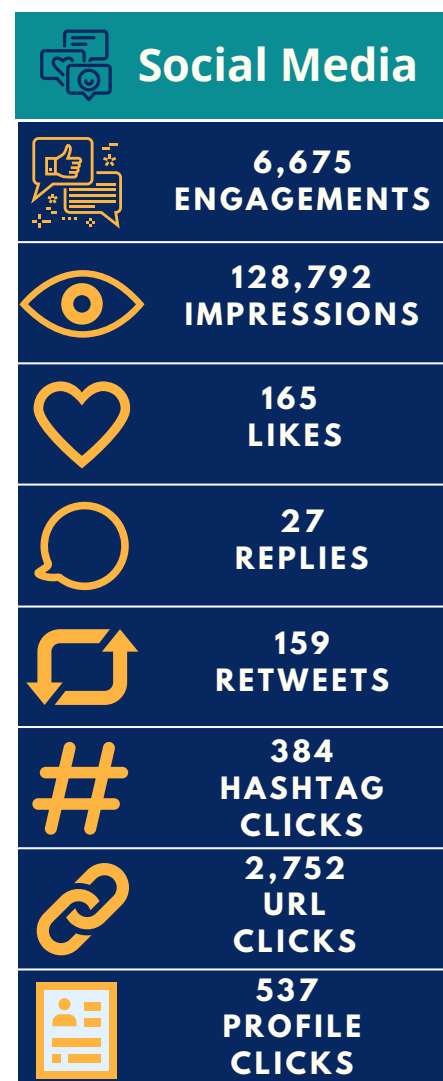
*This includes countries, territories, and geographic regions identified by the analytics provider.



ORI posts updates for stakeholders via its X/Twitter account, website, and email listserv.



*As of December 31, 2025.



Cumulative Data

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