Research Integrity

Conflict of Interest

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Research Integrity

Research Misconduct
BETRAYERS OF THE TRUTH
Fraud and Deceit in the Halls of Science

“Utterly fascinating reading.”—Science '83

By William Broad & Nicholas Wade
Eugene Viscusi gave his typically superb talk on perioperative analgesic management last December at the Post Graduate Assembly in New York. Midway through his talk, he presented a series of articles from *Anesthesia & Analgesia* by Dr. Scott Reuben showing the long-term beneficial effects of perioperative nonsteroidal antiinflammatory drug administration. I listened in silent horror, knowing that the articles in *Anesthesia & Analgesia* were likely fraudulent. I had known for months of an ongoing investiga-

“Scientists make mistakes. Our measurements are imprecise. We do not measure every variable that affects the outcome of an experiment. That is why we are forever seeking better experiments. We are forever weaving new bits of information into the tapestry of our understanding. The evolution of the tapestry slowly, inexorable corrects for scientific error.”

“Intentional fraud is not part of the scientific process. However, the same self-correcting mechanism that slowly eliminates experimental error will remove fraudulent results, whether or not the fraud is exposed.”

“Tattered Threads”

“For 15 years, Dr. Reuben’s data fabrication was missed by his coinvestigators, his reviewers, and journal editors… “

“This incident serves as a somber reminder of our responsibility to contribute accurate threads to the tapestry of knowledge that guides patient care. The tapestry will survive and eventually heal.”

Research Integrity
Research Misconduct
Fabrication
Falsification
Plagiarism
Research Integrity

Research Misconduct

Failure to comply with federal or other legal requirements governing conduct of research

Protection of human subjects
Welfare of laboratory animals
Research Misconduct

Inquiry Committee

Information gathering

Initial fact-finding
Research Misconduct

Investigation Committee

Formal examination and evaluation of all relevant facts to determine if research misconduct has occurred and who is the responsible person(s).
Research Misconduct

Investigation Committee

The Deciding Official (the President) of the institution will decide whether to accept the report of the Investigation Committee and the recommended institutional actions.
Research Misconduct (substantiated)

Withdrawal of pending or published papers

Restitution of funds to funding agency

Removal of responsible person from project, probation, suspension, salary reduction, rank reduction, termination of employment
Research Misconduct

Immediate Action !!!
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Responsibilities

Report observed, suspected, or apparent misconduct in research to the Research Integrity Officer (or you may contact the Department Chairperson, the Dean, or the Vice President for Research)

Protections regarding privacy and protections against retaliation assured

Fair treatment of the respondent also assured
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Questions?