

UNIVERSITY
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Research Misconduct

Protecting the Research Record - And Yourself!

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To Be Discussed

- I. Overview of Research Misconduct (RM)
- II. Who, when where does one go with an allegation of RM?
- III. Case Quickies
- IV. What can you do? Protect your Integrity
- V. Contact Information
- VI. Q & A and Game!



I. What is RM?

Fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism in proposing, performing, or reviewing research, or in reporting research results.

- Plagiarism

the appropriation of another person's ideas, processes, results, or words without giving appropriate credit. Plagiarism no longer includes self-plagiarism.

- Falsification

manipulating research materials, equipment, or processes, or changing or omitting data or results such that the research is not accurately represented in the research record.

- Fabrication

making up data or results and recording or reporting them.

does not include **honest error** or differences of opinion.

RM is Real - Outcomes

Research Misconduct Statistics Through the Ages



2008
thru
2012

Cases worked on:

- Assessments = 23
- Preliminary Inquiry = 11
- Formal Investigation = 5
 - Findings of RM = 4
- Cases Involving Graduate Students = 1
 - Complainant = 0/Respondent = 1

2013
thru
2017

Cases worked on:

- Assessments = 19
- Preliminary Inquiry = 4
- Formal Investigation = 3
 - Findings of RM = 3 (1 Admission)
- Cases Involving Graduate Students = 3
 - Complainant = 0/Respondent = 3

2018
thru
2022

Cases worked on:

- Assessments = 29
- Preliminary Inquiry = 5
- Formal Investigation = 3
 - Findings of RM = 3 (1 Admission)
- Cases Involving Graduate Students = 6
 - Complainant = 3/Respondent = 3

Research Misconduct (RM) means fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism in proposing, performing, or reviewing research, or in reporting research results

**2023 thru June 2025 (18 months): 15 Assessments; 6 Graduate Students*

II. Who, when, where does one go with an allegation of RM?

- WHO to go to?
 - Depends (Mentor, senior faculty, program director, Chair, OVPRS); focused case studies to come.
- WHEN should I raise the issue?
 - Act no matter the direction, let someone with experience help you make the right decision.
- WHERE can I report an allegation?
 - Direct to the OVPRS via email or phone
 - University Hotline – Anonymous option available
 - Thru trusted mentor/supervisor

III. CASE QUICKIES

Questions: 1) Who do you go to and why? and 2) How would you assess the allegation?

- A. **YOU**, and all your co-authors, receive an email from a person alleging potential falsification/fabrication of data from a recently published paper. You did not work on the image in question but review PubPeer to see that complaints started 9 months ago.
- B. **YOU** have a novel idea in your research field and tell your mentor. You start following your research and 6 months later you see an article published by your mentor on this novel idea without you.

IV. What can you do? Protect your Integrity

1. Documentation - needs to be impeccable and will refute allegations or, as in many cases, prove the allegation true but that it was an honest error and not RM.

- Raw data is sacrosanct
- Labeling & Transferring files – consistency, researchers cannot afford to be lazy or careless.
 - 3-week experiment can be for naught if someone mislabels the control leading to an improper figure!
- Email your understanding to ensure no confusion.

IV. What can you do? Protect your Integrity

2. Transparency - Must be present in all aspects of your work; likewise, you should be treated in kind, but if not, it must be demanded.

- All study team members are held to the same integrity standards regardless of rank or seniority, which includes bosses.
- No wallflowers when it comes to the research record.
- Seek clarification/help when needed...then document!

V. Contact Information

Office of the Vice Provost for Research & Scholarship (OVPRS)

Website: uresearch.miami.edu

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Anonymous Reporting: University Hotline for both written and verbal reporting.

Q&A & GAME



GAME QUESTION #1

YOU were reading an article in your field and start to notice that there were segments of the Introduction and Discussion that were very similar to segments of Your previously published article. You also find whole paragraphs that were identical to your article.

ANSWERS:

- A. Contact the author directly with your concern.
- B. Contact the Research Integrity unit for support in dealing with this matter.
- C. Drive by the author's house and throw eggs.
- D. None of the above.

GAME QUESTION #2

YOU are reviewing your mentor's work and see something that doesn't look right and are not sure of the statistical method used to calculate the data. It is a method you have not seen before.

ANSWERS:

- A. Contact the Research Integrity unit for support in dealing with this matter.
- B. Ask your mentor for clarification.
- C. Spend 25.5 hours researching the issue on your own.
- D. None of the above.

GAME QUESTION #3

YOU publish an article as first author and 6 months later your article appears in PubPeer anonymously asking professional but challenging questions about the authenticity of the published data.

ANSWERS:

- A. Review the PubPeer post and analyze the questions posed.
- B. Discuss the matter with your co-authors.
- C. Contact the Research Integrity unit for support in dealing with this matter.
- D. Write an immediate response to the PubPeer post calling them wrong.
- E. All the above.
- F. All the above except D.

GAME QUESTION #4

YOU believe that another graduate student is cheating in their research.

ANSWERS:

- A. Set up secret cameras around the lab.
- B. Copy parts of the student's lab notebook without permission for proof.
- C. Raise the issue with a supervisor (mentor, Program Director, trusted faculty or administrator).
- D. Talk to everyone in the lab about your beliefs.