RESEARCH MISCONDUCT

WHAT IS RESEARCH MISCONDUCT?

- Fabrication – making up data or results and recording or reporting them as true.
- 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.
- Plagiarism – appropriating another person’s ideas, processes, results, or words without proper attribution.

Research misconduct is not ordinary errors, good faith differences in interpretations or judgments of data, scholarly or political disagreements, good faith personal or professional opinions, private moral or ethical behavior or views, or authorship or collaboration disputes unless such disputes also involve research misconduct as defined above.

WHO RESPONSDES TO ALLEGATIONS OF RESEARCH MISCONDUCT?

The Research Integrity Officer (RIO) is the appointed official responsible for addressing all allegations of research misconduct at the University. The RIO oversees the research misconduct process, and takes reasonable steps to ensure the fair treatment of case participants. To the extent possible, the RIO helps maintain the confidentiality of case details and documents.

HOW DO I REPORT SUSPECTED RESEARCH MISCONDUCT?

If you suspect research misconduct, you are encouraged to report it:

- Speak with your department chair or dean;
- Email the RIO – rio@austin.utexas.edu;
- Call the RIO’s office – (512) 471-9884; or
- Complete the online Research Misconduct Incident Report Form

WHAT IS THE RESEARCH MISCONDUCT PROCESS FOLLOWING AN ALLEGATION?

Assessment
- The RIO evaluates the allegation to determine whether it falls within the scope of the University’s research misconduct policy.
- If yes, the RIO proceeds to an Inquiry.

Inquiry
- The RIO gathers preliminary evidence, interviews case participants and analyzes case evidence to determine whether an investigation is warranted.
- If yes, the RIO proceeds to an Investigation.

Investigation
- The RIO establishes an investigative committee who: interviews case participants; examines all available evidence; develops a finding; and writes an investigative report for submission to the Provost.

Provost’s Review
- The Provost reviews the investigative committee’s report and determines whether to accept the findings of the investigative report and the RIO’s recommended actions.

To learn more about how the University handles allegations of research misconduct, please consult its policy (HOP 7-1230).

Sources:
- Fabrication, Falsification definition: https://ori.hhs.gov/definition-misconduct
- The University of Texas at Austin Research Misconduct Evaluation Process Handbook

Questions?
rio@austin.utexas.edu
(512) 471-9884