Ethics

Policy on Research Misconduct (III.A.2)

STATEMENT OF POLICY

I. Scope

This Policy(1) describes Purdue University's policies and procedures concerning Allegations of Research Misconduct against a person who, at the time of the alleged misconduct, was engaged in research at Purdue. The University will address all Allegations of Research Misconduct and all discipline assessed in connection with Research Misconduct exclusively under this Policy.

II. Other Misconduct

Allegations of misconduct occurring outside the research setting are excluded from this Policy, as are allegations of conduct in the context of research that would not affect the integrity of research (for example, misallocation of funds, sexual harassment, illegal discrimination, or academic misconduct that is not Research Misconduct). Such allegations, including allegations that are brought forward as Allegations of Research Misconduct but that are not found to constitute Research Misconduct under this Policy, may be addressed under other University policies. Issues that involve the ethical treatment of human and animal research subjects but not Research Misconduct are also not covered by this Policy.

Violating the confidentiality obligations or the prohibitions against retaliation imposed by this Policy, making an Allegation of Research Misconduct in bad faith, or engaging in other practices that do not constitute Research Misconduct but that are unacceptable in a university environment, may constitute misconduct and/or insubordination, which can subject the violator to discipline under other University policies, practices, and procedures.(2)

III. Preamble

Integrity with regard to discovery, scholarly investigation, and the recording and reporting of these activities, is a core principle of academic life and is essential to scientific and scholarly progress. The proper conduct of scientific and scholarly research serves the best interests of the University community and society. Hence, a commitment to truth, objectivity, and honesty should guide everyone engaged in research at the University. Those participating in scientific or scholarly research are expected to maintain careful research records, to establish and follow well-defined protocols consistent with all state, federal, and University guidelines, and to report discoveries, observations, and scholarly and artistic activities accurately and fairly.

IV. Policy
Purdue shall provide a fair, thorough, competent, and objective response to all Allegations of Research Misconduct by following the procedures outlined in this Policy and applicable regulations of any federal agency providing research funding. The University may depart from this Policy if necessary to comply with any applicable laws or regulations. Nothing in this Policy creates a contract of employment between the University and any person, or changes the status of any at-will employee.

V. Rights and Responsibilities of Purdue Associates

Every Purdue Associate involved in any aspect of research at Purdue must encourage integrity in research, assign credit and responsibility for research appropriately, maintain careful research records, and establish and follow well-defined research protocols. Any Purdue Associate who believes in good faith that Research Misconduct may have occurred has an obligation to make an Allegation of Research Misconduct to the Research Integrity Officer (RIO) or to the Chief Academic Officer. Any Purdue Associate who receives information from any person that does or might constitute an Allegation of Research Misconduct or an admission of conduct constituting Research Misconduct must forward that information to the RIO. After making an Allegation of Research Misconduct, a Complainant shall have no further role in connection with any Research Misconduct Proceeding that may follow, except as a witness when appropriate.

A Respondent shall be entitled, at the Respondent's sole expense, to select and be represented by an advisor or advisors of his or her choice in connection with a Research Misconduct Proceeding involving an Allegation of Research Misconduct against him or her.

Purdue Associates shall cooperate with the RIO and other Purdue officials in connection with Research Misconduct Proceedings. Purdue Associates shall, upon request, provide evidence and information relevant to an Allegation of Research Misconduct to the RIO, an inquiry committee, an investigation committee, or other Purdue officials involved in a Research Misconduct Proceeding.

Purdue Associates shall not retaliate in any way against Complainants, witnesses, or committee members. Purdue Associates should report any known or reasonably suspected retaliation to the RIO, who shall take reasonable, practical and appropriate steps to counter the actual or potential effects of such retaliation.

Except as required by applicable laws or regulations, neither the Complainant, the Respondent, nor any Purdue Associate shall publicize or disclose the identity of Complainants, Respondents, or members of any inquiry or investigation committee, or any records or evidence from which research subjects might be identified, except (i) to those who need to know for the University to conduct any Research Misconduct Proceeding, and to their superiors, and (ii) to a Respondent's advisors who are bound by professional or contractual obligations to maintain the confidentiality of such information.

VI. Responsibilities of Purdue University
The Chief Academic Officer, in consultation with its chief research officer, will appoint a person to serve as the RIO under this Policy. In addition, the Chief Academic Officer, in consultation with the Faculty Chairperson, deans, and regional campus chancellors, as appropriate, will appoint a Committee on Research Integrity in accordance with the Additional Procedures (see Appendix).

If the Chief Academic Officer receives an Allegation of Research Misconduct, he or she shall forward the allegation to the RIO for handling under the provisions in this Policy.

If Purdue administrators learn of facts or circumstances that could support a good faith belief that Research Misconduct may have occurred, the administration may make an Allegation of Research Misconduct under this Policy, which shall be treated in the same way as an allegation made by any other person.

Except as required by applicable laws or regulations or as otherwise permitted by this Policy, Purdue shall not without consent disclose the identity of Complainants, Respondents, or members of any inquiry or investigation committee, or any records or evidence from which research subjects might be identified, except to those who need to know for the University to conduct any Research Misconduct Proceeding, and to their superiors. Purdue may make any disclosures and take other reasonable, practical, and appropriate steps (i) to protect the public health, safety, or welfare, (ii) to protect federal funds or equipment, (iii) to preserve the integrity of research or of Research Misconduct Proceedings, (iv) to address possible criminal violations, and/or (v) for any other reasonable purpose. Purdue may disclose the findings and/or final report of an investigation committee which concludes that Research Misconduct has occurred, and Purdue may disclose that an individual has admitted to conduct constituting Research Misconduct, and pertinent facts relating to such an admission. Purdue may also disclose the findings and/or final report of an investigation committee that does not conclude that Research Misconduct has occurred, if Purdue and the Respondent believe that disclosure would assist in restoring the reputation of the Respondent and would serve overall fairness.

Upon request, Purdue will take reasonable, practical, and appropriate steps to restore the reputation of a Respondent against whom no finding of Research Misconduct is made. Purdue will also, upon request, take reasonable, practical, and appropriate steps to protect and restore the reputation of Complainants, witnesses, and committee members, and to protect them from retaliation by Respondents and other Purdue Associates as a result of making an Allegation of Research Misconduct or participating in Research Misconduct Proceedings.

VII. Responsibilities of the Research Integrity Officer

The RIO, who shall be a tenured full professor, shall have primary responsibility for administering this Policy and for maintaining University compliance with laws and regulations applicable to Research Misconduct Proceedings, including but not limited to providing notices and maintaining and retaining records in accordance with the requirements of federal funding agencies. The RIO shall be responsible for training members of the Committee on Research Integrity and members of each investigation committee concerning their duties under this Policy, and shall otherwise perform all
responsibilities assigned the RIO under this Policy promptly and fairly, and in accordance with the provisions of this Policy.

(1) Capitalized terms are defined in the definitions section in this Policy.

(2) For example, dishonesty by students in the performance of academic work is governed by the Student Conduct Code rather than this Policy.

(1) Capitalized terms in this Appendix are defined in the definitions section in Purdue's Policy on