



## RESEARCH MISCONDUCT

This communication is to remind the research community of UMDNJ about the University's policy on reporting and dealing with instances of research misconduct.

Research misconduct means fabrication, falsification or plagiarism in proposing, performing or reviewing research, or in reporting research results. Research misconduct does not include honest error, conflicting data, differences of opinion, or differences in interpretations or judgments about data or experimental design. **Fabrication** is making up data or results and recording or reporting them. **Falsification** is 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** is the appropriation of another person's ideas, processes, results or words without giving appropriate credit. Authorship or credit disputes, and "self-plagiarism" of an author's work from one paper to another or from a paper to a grant application are not ordinarily considered plagiarism. The complete University policy on research misconduct is available on the web at:

[http://www.umdj.edu/oppmweb/university\\_policies/Academic\\_affairs/PDF/00-01-20-60\\_00.pdf](http://www.umdj.edu/oppmweb/university_policies/Academic_affairs/PDF/00-01-20-60_00.pdf)

**CAMPUS COMMITTEES ON RESEARCH INTEGRITY** are in place for Newark, Piscataway/New Brunswick, and Camden/Stratford. The role of these committees is to receive and act upon allegations of research misconduct. The names, addresses and telephone numbers for all Campus Committee members are listed in this document.

Allegations of research misconduct are handled in a multi-stage process. In the first stage, the Campus Committee Chair performs a preliminary assessment to determine whether the allegation falls within the definition of research misconduct as set forth in the federal regulations and in the University policy, and whether the allegation is sufficiently credible and specific so that potential evidence of research misconduct may be identified to proceed with an inquiry. The second stage is an inquiry, conducted by the Campus Committee. This is an information-gathering and fact-finding activity to determine if an allegation of research misconduct has substance and warrants further investigation. If the committee finds after the inquiry that sufficient credible evidence of research misconduct exists, the Committee makes a recommendation to the Executive Vice President for Academic and Clinical Affairs that a formal investigation be conducted according to procedures outlined in the University policy. The person making the allegation and the respondent are informed of the outcome of the inquiry. If the Executive Vice President for Academic and Clinical Affairs decides to conduct an investigation, he/she appoints a special panel for this purpose. The investigation is a formal, thorough and documented examination and evaluation of all relevant facts, research records and other evidence to determine if a recommendation should be made that research misconduct has occurred. The investigative panel sends its recommendation to the Executive Vice President for Academic and Clinical Affairs who makes the final decision and takes appropriate action.

### REPORTING RESEARCH MISCONDUCT

Should an individual become aware of or suspect research misconduct, the details of the misconduct should be reported, in writing if possible, to any member of the appropriate Campus Committee on Research Integrity. Members of your Campus Committee may, in addition, be contacted informally at any time. Initially, the identity of a complainant can be kept confidential. Should the allegation lead to an inquiry or investigation, testimony by the complainant may be required. The University is committed to the protection of good-faith whistleblowers. However, allegations which prove to be untrue and which are found to have been made in bad faith (i.e., the intentional filing of an allegation which the complainant knew or had reason to know was false; or an allegation made with reckless disregard for or willful ignorance of facts that would disprove the allegation) will be subject to appropriate disciplinary actions by the University.

# CAMPUS COMMITTEES ON RESEARCH INTEGRITY

(TO WHOM ALLEGATIONS OF RESEARCH MISCONDUCT SHOULD BE MADE)

## NEWARK

D. Anthony Forrester, PhD, RN,  
**Chair**  
SSB 1015, SN/Newark,  
Ext.: **2-7671**

Vivian Bellofatto, PhD  
Microbiology & Molecular  
Genetics  
ICPH E350B, GSBS/Newark  
973-972-4483 Ext.: **24406**

Neal R. Boyd, EdD, MSPH  
Health Education & Behavioral  
Science  
SSB 701, SPH/Newark,  
Ext.: **2-7212**

Gill Diamond, PhD, MSc  
Oral Biology  
MSB 634. NJDS/Newark,  
Ext.: **2-3324**

Sandra Kaplan, PhD  
Rehabilitation & Movement  
Sciences  
SSB 718-C, SHRP/Newark,  
Ext.: **2-2459**

Pranela Rameshwar, PhD  
Medicine  
MSB E-579, NJMS/Newark,  
Ext.: **2-4913**

Leroy R. Sharer, MD  
Pathology & Laboratory  
Medicine  
MSB C-561, NJMS/Newark,  
Ext.: **2-4770**

## PISCATAWAY / NEW BRUNSWICK

Jerome A. Langer, PhD, **Chair**  
Mol. Genetics, Microbiology &  
Immunology  
RWJMS Rm729,  
RWJMS/Piscataway,  
Ext.: **5-5224**

Cande V. Ananth, PhD, MPH  
Obstetrics, Gynecology &  
Reproductive Sciences  
CAB 2152,  
RWJMS/New Brunswick,  
Ext.: **5-7940**

Kenneth J. Gill, PhD  
Psychiatric Rehabilitation &  
Counseling Professions  
1776 Raritan Rd, Rm 517,  
SHRP/Scotch Plains  
Tel: **(908) 889-2438**

Weichung Joe Shih, PhD  
Biostatistics  
CINJ 2008,  
SPH/New Brunswick,  
Ext.: **5-6791**

Victor Stollar, MD  
Mol. Genetics, Microbiology &  
Immunology  
RWJMS 731, GSBS/Piscataway,  
Ext.: **5-4596**

Nancy C. Walworth, PhD  
Pharmacology  
RWJRT 536,  
RWJMS/Piscataway,  
Ext.: **5-5661**

## CAMDEN / STRATFORD

Robert Steer, EdD, **Chair**  
Psychiatry  
UDP 1600, SOM/Stratford,  
Ext.: **6-6290**

Rocco V. Carsia, PhD  
Cell Biology  
SciCtr 225, GSBS/Stratford,  
Ext.: **6-6039**

Stuart C. Finch, MD  
Medicine, RWJMS  
Cooper Hosp.-Univ. Med. Center  
1 Cooper Plaza - Dorrance 115  
Camden, NJ 08103  
Tel: **(856) 342-2206**

Wanda Mohr, PhD, RN  
School of Nursing  
UEC 2025, SN/Stratford,  
Ext.: **6-6308**

Ann W. Tucker, DEd  
Interdisciplinary Studies  
40 East Laurel Rd., UEC 2105;  
SHRP/Stratford  
Tel.: **(856) 566-6434**

Bernadette West, PhD  
Health Systems & Policy  
UEC 1114; SPH/Stratford;  
Ext: **6-2790**

Office of the Vice President for Research

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