

**COPY OF PROPOSAL:** A copy of this proposal may be obtained from the GSA Acquisition Policy Division (MVP), Room 4011, GSA Building, 1800 F Street NW, Washington, DC 20405, or by telephoning (202) 501-3822, or by faxing your request to (202) 501-3341.

Dated: April 27, 1999.

**Ida M. Ustad,**

*Deputy Associate Administrator for Acquisition Policy.*

[FR Doc. 99-11109 Filed 5-3-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6820-61-M

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics: Meeting

Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the Department of Health and Human Services announces the following advisory committee meeting.

*Name:* National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics (NCVHS), Subcommittee on Privacy and Confidentiality.

*Time and Date:* 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., May 19, 1999; 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., May 20, 1990.

*Place:* Room 405A, Hubert H. Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20201.

*Status:* Open.

*Purpose:* At this meeting, the Subcommittee will hear panel presentations on selected confidentiality issues. On the first day, a panel discussion is planned on the flow of health information between employers and insurers and related issues of data access and confidentiality. A second panel of privacy advocates will discuss their views on these topics. On the second day, the Subcommittee will hear a panel discussion of pharmacy benefit management firms and their information practices.

*Notice:* In the interest of security, the Department has instituted stringent procedures for entrance to the Hubert H. Humphrey building by non-government employees. Thus, persons without a government identification card will need to have the guard call for an escort to the meeting.

*Contact Person for More Information:* Substantive program information as well as summaries of meetings and a roster of committee members may be obtained from Gail Horlick, M.S.W., J.D., Lead Staff Person for the NCVHS Subcommittee on Privacy and Confidentiality, Office of Research and Demonstrations, Health Care Financing Administration, MS-C4-13-01, 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850, telephone (410)-786-6620; or Marjorie S. Greenberg, Executive Secretary, NCVHS, NCHS, CDC, Room 1100, Presidential Building, 6525 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Maryland 20782, telephone (301) 436-7050. Information also is available on the NCVHS home page of the HHS website: <http://aspe.os.dhhs.gov/ncvhs>, where an

agenda for the meeting will be posted when available.

Dated: April 28, 1999.

**James Scanlon,**

*Director, Division of Data Policy, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation.*

[FR Doc. 99-11123 Filed 5-3-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4151-04-M

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Office of the Secretary

#### Findings of Scientific Misconduct

**AGENCY:** Office of the Secretary, HHS.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the Office of Research Integrity (ORI) has made a final finding of scientific misconduct in the following case:

*Chang-Fen Huang, Ph.D., State University of New York at Stony Brook (SUNY-SB):* Based on an investigation conducted by SUNY-SB dated December 18, 1997, ORI finds that Dr. Huang, former graduate student, Department of Biochemistry, SUNY-SB, engaged in scientific misconduct in the reporting and conducting of research supported by a grant from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Specifically, ORI finds that:

(1) Dr. Huang falsely mislabeled and relabeled six autoradiographs of Northern blots (ARG) that she had obtained from earlier unrelated experiments to make them appear to have come from several different and separate experiments.

(2) For one of the sets noted in (1) above, Dr. Huang falsified and misrepresented portions of the ARG in panel B of figure 1, in C.F. Huang et al. "Depolarization-transcription signals in skeletal muscle use calcium flux through L channels, but bypass the sarcoplasmic reticulum." *Neuron* 13:167-177, 1994. Figure 1B purported to show the effect of electrical activity on the expression of genes for subunits of the acetyl choline receptor, but actually used data derived from a separate and unrelated experiment showing the effect of phorbol esters on the expression of the myogenin gene that had been previously reported in an unrelated publication. The publication was retracted at *Neuron* 13(1):1294, 1998.

(3) For one of the sets noted in (1) above, Dr. Huang falsified and misrepresented Figure VII/7, an aggregate ARG, on page 159 of her

dissertation, "Studies of the Signaling Pathway Coupling Membrane Depolarization and AchR Gene Inactivation in Chick Skeletal Muscle," December 1993. The figure reported the effect of a set of calcium-active agents on the sarcoplasmic reticulum that were different from those studied for the original ARG.

Dr. Huang has accepted the ORI finding and has entered into a Voluntary Exclusion Agreement with ORI in which she has voluntarily agreed, for the three (3) year period beginning April 20, 1999:

(1) To exclude herself from any contracting or subcontracting with any agency of the United States Government and from eligibility for, or involvement in, nonprocurement transactions (e.g., grants and cooperative agreements) of the United States Government as defined in 45 C.F.R. Part 76 (Debarment Regulations); and

(2) to exclude herself from serving in any advisory capacity to the Public Health Service (PHS), including but not limited to service on any PHS advisory committee, board, and/or peer review committee, or as a consultant.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Acting Director, Division of Research Investigations, Office of Research Integrity 5515 Security Lane, Suite 700, Rockville, MD 20852, (301) 443-5330.

**Chris B. Pascal,**

*Acting Director, Office of Research Integrity.*

[FR Doc. 99-11120 Filed 5-3-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160-17-P

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Agency for Health Care Policy and Research

#### Nomination of Topics for Evidence-based Practice Centers (EPCs)

The Agency for Health Care Policy and Research (AHCPH) invites a third round of nominations of topics for evidence reports and technology assessments relating to the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and management of common diseases and clinical conditions. AHCPH's first request for topic nominations was published in the **Federal Register** on December 23, 1996. AHCPH's second request was published in the **Federal Register** on November 28, 1997.

With this third round of nominations, AHCPH is expanding the range of topics that may be submitted. In addition to nominations of topics for assessments and evidence reports on specific health care technologies and medical