

each of the objectives proposed during the entire period of performance. The current standardized format and data submission by applicants increases efficiency in reviewing, awarding, and monitoring each project.

This revision to the clearance package will incorporate an additional form for participants, the QPU. The QPU is completed via HRSA's Electronic Handbook and prompts recipients to report on progress of activities that were submitted using the SWP in the original application. The QPU will automatically populate activities from the recipient's SWP form on a quarterly basis. For each activity listed in the submitted SWP for any particular quarter within the project period, recipients will select and submit a single selection response for each activity status from a pull-down menu with five options: Activity is on Schedule, Activity is Complete, Timing is off track, Activity will be missed if

action is not taken, and Activity cannot be achieved. Information provided will be utilized by the program staff to regularly assess overall progress of program requirements and analyze data in order to monitor award recipient compliance and track progress against proposed targets and goals. Information gathered will allow for an improved and more efficient method for identifying whether projects' goals are being advanced or achieved, as set forth in 45 CFR 75.342. Program staff will also use information provided over the period of performance to see emerging trends and to assess whether an award recipient requires technical assistance to address challenges that the award recipient may be experiencing with the implementation of the project. Seeking OMB approval comports with the regulatory requirement imposed by 45 CFR 75.206(a), Paperwork clearances.

**Likely Respondents:** Recipients of HRSA Bureau of Health Workforce's research and training grants and cooperative agreements.

**Burden Statement:** Burden in this context means the time expended by persons to generate, maintain, retain, disclose or provide the information requested. This includes the time needed to review instructions; to develop, acquire, install, and utilize technology and systems for the purpose of collecting, validating, and verifying information, processing and maintaining information, and disclosing and providing information; to train personnel and to be able to respond to a collection of information; to search data sources; to complete and review the collection of information; and to transmit or otherwise disclose the information. The total annual burden hours estimated for this ICR are summarized in the table below.

#### TOTAL ESTIMATED ANNUALIZED BURDEN—HOURS

Form name	Number of respondents	Number of responses per respondent	Total responses	Average burden per response (in hours)	Total annual burden hours
Standardized Work Plan (SWP) .....	1,000	1	1,000	1.00	1,000
Quarterly Progress Update (QPU) Form .....	1,000	4	4,000	.10	400
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>11,000</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1,400</b>

<sup>1</sup> The 1,000 Standardized Work Plan (SWP) respondents reflects the number of new grant applications submitted annually. The 1,000 Quarterly Progress Update (QPU) respondents reflects the current volume of funded, active grants.

HRSA specifically requests comments on (1) the necessity and utility of the proposed information collection for the proper performance of the agency's functions, (2) the accuracy of the estimated burden, (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected, and (4) the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology to minimize the information collection burden.

**Maria G. Button,**  
Director, Executive Secretariat.

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**BILLING CODE 4165-15-P**

#### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

##### Office of the Secretary

##### Findings of Research Misconduct

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Findings of research misconduct have been made against

Charles A. Downs (Respondent), former Adjunct Assistant Professor, Arizona Health Sciences Center, University of Arizona (UA). Respondent engaged in research misconduct in research supported by U.S. Public Health Service (PHS) funds, specifically National Center for Advancing Translation Sciences (NCATS), National Institutes of Health (NIH), grant UL1 TR000454. The administrative actions, including supervision for a period of four (4) years, were implemented beginning on November 18, 2020, and are detailed below.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
Elisabeth A. Handley, Director, Office of Research Integrity, 1101 Wootton Parkway, Suite 240, Rockville, MD 20852, (240) 453-8200.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Notice is hereby given that the Office of Research Integrity (ORI) has taken final action in the following case:

*Charles A. Downs, University of Arizona:* Based on the report of an investigation conducted by UA and analysis conducted by ORI in its oversight review, ORI found that

Respondent, former Adjunct Assistant Professor, Arizona Health Sciences Center, UA, engaged in research misconduct in research supported by PHS funds, specifically NCATS, NIH, grant UL1 TR000454.

Respondent neither admits nor denies ORI's findings of research misconduct. Respondent and ORI desire to close this matter without further expense of time and other resources and thus have entered into a Voluntary Settlement Agreement (Agreement).

ORI found that Respondent engaged in research misconduct by intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly falsifying and/or fabricating data included in the following six (6) grant applications submitted for PHS funds:

- R01 NR016242–01, submitted to the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR), NIH
- R01 NR016242–01A1, submitted to NINR, NIH
- R01 NR016957–01, submitted to NINR, NIH
- R01 NR016957–01A1, submitted to NINR, NIH

- R01 HL142576–01, submitted to National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), NIH
- R01 NR016957–02, submitted to NINR, NIH

ORI found that Respondent knowingly, intentionally, or recklessly falsified and/or fabricated histological images and bar graphs of fluorescent signal data for the production of reactive oxygen species (ROS) in rat lung tissue slices and isolated alveolar type-2 cells by reusing and relabeling previously published figures to represent results from different experiments in twelve (12) figures and related text included in six (6) grant applications. Specifically, Respondent falsified data in:

- Figures 4 and 5 in R01 NR016242–01
- Figures 2 and 3 in R01 NR016242–01A1
- Figures 3A and 3B in R01 NR016957–01
- Figures 3A and 3B in R01 NR016957–01A1
- Figures 3A and 3B in R01 HL142576–01
- Figures 3A and 3B in R01 NR016957–02

Respondent entered into an Agreement and agreed to the following:

(1) Respondent agreed to have his research supervised for a period of four (4) years beginning on November 18, 2020. Respondent agrees that prior to the submission of an application for PHS support for a research project on which Respondent's participation is proposed and prior to Respondent's participation in any capacity on PHS-supported research, Respondent shall ensure that a plan for supervision of Respondent's duties is submitted to ORI for approval. The supervision plan must be designed to ensure the scientific integrity of Respondent's research contribution. Respondent agrees that he shall not participate in any PHS-supported research until such a supervision plan is submitted to and approved by ORI. Respondent agrees to maintain responsibility for compliance with the agreed upon supervision plan.

(2) The requirements for Respondent's supervision plan are as follows:

i. A committee of 2–3 senior faculty members at the institution who are familiar with Respondent's field of research, but not including Respondent's supervisor or collaborators, will provide oversight and guidance for a period of four (4) years from the effective date of the Agreement. The committee will review primary data from Respondent's laboratory on a quarterly basis and submit a report to ORI at six (6) month intervals, setting forth the committee

meeting dates and Respondent's compliance with appropriate research standards and confirming the integrity of Respondent's research.

ii. The committee will conduct an advance review of any PHS grant applications (including supplements, resubmissions, etc.), manuscripts reporting PHS-funded research submitted for publication, and abstracts. The review will include a discussion with Respondent of the primary data represented in those documents and will include a certification to ORI that the data presented in the proposed application/publication are supported by the research record.

(3) Respondent agreed that for a period of four (4) years beginning on November 18, 2020, any institution employing him shall submit, in conjunction with each application of PHS funds, or report, manuscript, or abstract involving PHS-supported research in which Respondent is involved, a certification to ORI that the data provided by Respondent are based on actual experiments or are otherwise legitimately derived and that the data, procedures, and methodology are accurately reported in the application, report, manuscript, or abstract.

(4) If no supervisory plan is provided to ORI, Respondent agreed to provide certification to ORI at the conclusion of the supervision period that he has not engaged in, applied for, or had his name included on any application, proposal, or other request for PHS funds without prior notification to ORI.

(5) Respondent agreed to exclude himself voluntarily from serving in any advisory capacity to PHS including, but not limited to, service on any PHS advisory committee, board, and/or peer review committee, or as a consultant for a period of four (4) years, beginning on November 9, 2020.

Dated: December 8, 2020.

**Elisabeth A. Handley,**

*Director, Office of Research Integrity, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### National Institutes of Health

#### Proposed Collection: 60-Day Comment Request; Generic Clearance to Support the Safe to Sleep® Campaign at the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute for Child Health and Human Development

**AGENCY:** National Institutes of Health, HHS.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the requirement of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 to provide opportunity for public comment on proposed data collection projects, the *Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD)*, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) will publish periodic summaries of proposed projects to be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval.

**DATE:** Comments regarding this information collection are best assured of having their full effect if received within 60 days of the date of this publication.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** To obtain a copy of the data collection plans and instruments, submit comments in writing, or request more information on the proposed project, contact: Lorena Kaplan, M.P.H., CHES, Office of Communications, *Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development*, National Institutes of Health, 31 Center Drive, Room 2A32, Bethesda, Maryland 20892, or call non-toll free number (301) 496–6670 or Email your request, including your address to [lorena.kaplan@nih.gov](mailto:lorena.kaplan@nih.gov). Formal requests for additional plans and instruments must be requested in writing.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 requires: Written comments and/or suggestions from the public and affected agencies are invited to address one or more of the following points: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the function of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) The accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be