RESEARCH MISCONDUCT

Investigators, research staff, IRBs, the Human Subjects Protection Program, and the organization share responsibility for the ethical conduct of human subjects’ research and for compliance with federal regulations, applicable state and local laws, and university policy.

Research Misconduct means any fabrication, falsification, plagiarism, or other practice that seriously deviates from those that are commonly accepted with the scientific community 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.

Investigators, research staff and any other members of the organization charged with human subjects’ protection are required to report instances of possible research misconduct to a Campus Committee on Research Integrity. However, any individual or employee may report observed or apparent instances of research misconduct. In such cases, the reporting party is responsible for making these reports in good faith, maintaining confidentiality and cooperating with a Campus Committee on Research Integrity or institutional official investigating an allegation of 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 the Campus Committee may, in addition, be contacted informally at any time. Go to [http://vpr.rutgers.edu/](http://vpr.rutgers.edu/) in order to identify a Campus Committee on Research Integrity nearest you. 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.

Research noncompliance refers to a failure (intentional or unintentional) to follow the regulations, institutional policies governing human subject research, or requirements of or determinations by the IRB by the investigators or research staff, or any member of the Human Subjects Protection Program, including the IRBs or IRB administrative staff. Noncompliance can result from action or omission. Noncompliance may be non-serious (minor) or serious, and may also be continuing. Please see HSPP Guidance ([http://www.rbhs.rutgers.edu/hsp/guidance/index.html](http://www.rbhs.rutgers.edu/hsp/guidance/index.html)) to report research noncompliance.