

February 1, 2011

## RESEARCH MISCONDUCT

**1. PURPOSE:** To establish responsibility within the South Texas Veterans Health Care System (STVHCS) for handling allegations of research misconduct.

**2. POLICY:**

a. Research misconduct is defined as the fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism in proposing, performing, or reviewing research, or in reporting research results.

b. The STVCHS will address all allegations of research misconduct in accordance with the procedures and requirements established in Veterans Health Administration Handbook 1058.2, Research Misconduct, which conforms to the requirements of the Federal Policy on Research Misconduct. In accordance with this Handbook, the facility will have a position designated as the Research Integrity Officer (RIO) to handle research misconduct allegations.

**3. ACTION:**

a. The position of Associate Chief of Staff for Research and Development has been designated as the permanent Research Integrity Officer (RIO) for the South Texas Veterans Health Care System.

b. The Research Integrity Officer shall be responsible for overseeing all aspects of research misconduct inquiries and investigations, following the specific procedures as outlined in VHA Handbook 1058.2. The RIO will:

(1) Receive all allegations of research misconduct, determining whether alleged misconduct falls within the scope and meets the threshold of these procedures, overseeing all Inquiries and Investigations, maintaining files of all documents and evidence, ensuring the confidentiality and security of those files, forwarding all information to the appropriate offices or persons as required by these procedures, and otherwise acting as a liaison between the STVHCS facility and the Office of Research Oversight (ORO);

(2) Coordinate with the Institutional Official at the affiliate University when the involved individual is jointly appointed with the University;

(3) Coordinate and monitor the necessary steps for maintaining appropriate safeguards for respondents and informants;

(4) Provide procedural information to members of Inquiry and Investigation Committees;

**POLICY MEMORANDUM 151-11-06**

- (5) Advise staff on these policies and procedures; and
  - (6) Oversee compliance.
4. **REFERENCE:** VHA Handbook 1058.2, Research Misconduct, dated May 4, 2005
  5. **RESPONSIBILITY:** ACOS for Research and Development (151)
  6. **RESCISSION:** STVHCS Policy Memorandum 151-07-06 dated April 17, 2007
  7. **RECERTIFICATION:** February 2016



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