

RESEARCH INTEGRITY OVERVIEW

Philip R. Cunningham
Associate Vice President
Research Integrity

RESEARCH INTEGRITY AREAS

I. Research Ethics

- Research involving human subjects
- Research involving animals
- Conflicts of interest
- Research dissemination
- Research misconduct

II. Research Safety

- Hazardous materials management
- Indoor air quality, air contaminants monitoring, noise pollution
- Biological safety
- Radiation safety
- Laboratory safety
- Chemical Safety

CONFLICT OF INTEREST (COI)

- Occasionally, a research project has the potential to place the researcher in a financial conflict of interests
- For instance, owning stock in a company that is paying you to test one of its new drugs. If the drug tests are successful you stand to make lots of \$\$\$ but if the drug tests are not successful ...
- To manage these sorts of conflicts, we have a Financial Conflict of Interest Committee (FCOI) whose job is to devise a management plan for the researcher that keeps him/her from being placed in this predicament.
- The committee may allow the researcher to perform the study but not to receive or analyze the data.

FOREIGN INFLUENCE

GUIDANCE REGARDING MANAGEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS AND ACTIVITIES

The federal government and several federal sponsors have expressed growing concerns regarding the potential for improper foreign influence over academic research having a foreign component.

Reminders have been issued highlighting the importance of ensuring compliance with existing and new policies and regulations, including those related to full disclosure of foreign engagements, conflicts of interest, and conflicts of commitment.

See:

<https://research.wayne.edu/news/guidance-regarding-management-of-international->

FOREIGN INFLUENCE

Any work done outside of the United States must be disclosed in grant proposals, progress reports, and final technical reports.

Potential conflicts of interest – either foreign or domestic – must be identified and managed appropriately in accordance with the Research Policy on Financial Conflict of Interest and Commitment.

FOREIGN INFLUENCE

According to the NIH Grants Policy Statement, the definition of a foreign component is:

“The performance of any significant scientific element or segment of a project outside of the United States, either by the recipient or by a researcher employed by a foreign organization, whether or not grant funds are expended.”

FOREIGN INFLUENCE

Activities that would meet this definition include, but are not limited to,

- The involvement of human subjects or animals,
- extensive foreign travel by recipient project staff for the purpose of data collection, surveying, sampling, and similar activities, or
- any activity of the recipient that may have an impact on U.S. foreign policy through involvement in the affairs or environment of a foreign country.

FOREIGN INFLUENCE

Examples of other grant-related activities that may be significant are:

- collaborations with investigators at a foreign site anticipated to result in co-authorship;
- use of facilities or instrumentation at a foreign site or;
- receipt of financial support or resources from a foreign entity.

Foreign travel for consultation is not considered a foreign component.

FOREIGN INFLUENCE

Professor Indicted for Alleged Undisclosed Chinese Links

A professor at the University of Kansas was indicted Wednesday on federal fraud charges for allegedly failing to disclose a full-time employment contract he held with a Chinese university while conducting research at Kansas funded by federal research contracts.

Feng (Franklin) Tao, a chemist and associate professor at Kansas's Center for Environmentally Beneficial Catalysis, is charged with one count of wire fraud and three counts of program fraud. If convicted, he faces up to 20 years imprisonment and a maximum fine of \$250,000 on the wire fraud count, and up to 10 years imprisonment and a maximum fine of \$250,000 on each of the counts of program fraud.

FOREIGN INFLUENCE

THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
WESTERN DISTRICT *of* MICHIGAN

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Department of Justice

U.S. Attorney's Office

Western District of Michigan

SHARE 

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, December 19, 2019

Department Of Justice Reaches \$5.5 Million Settlement With Van Andel Research Institute To Resolve Allegations Of Undisclosed Chinese Grants To Two Researchers

WASHINGTON — The Department of Justice announced today that Van Andel Research Institute (VARI) has agreed to pay \$5,500,000.00 to resolve allegations that it violated the False Claims Act by submitting federal grant applications and progress reports to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in which VARI failed to disclose Chinese government grants that funded two VARI researchers. The settlement further resolves allegations that in a Dec. 21, 2018 letter, VARI made certain factual representations to NIH with deliberate ignorance or reckless disregard for the truth regarding the Chinese grants.

FOREIGN INFLUENCE

What do I do now?

See the WSU web site on Foreign Influence.

If you would like additional information regarding a government grant proposal, please contact your grants officer at the WSU Sponsored Program Administration.

For other concerns relating to Foreign Influence issues, please contact either Gail Ryan (gail.ryan@wayne.edu) or me (philc@wayne.edu).

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