I. Title
   Policy on Integrity in Research

II. Policy

   A. Research misconduct is contrary to the interests of science and scholarly activities, the State and Federal government, and the health and safety of the public, and is a significant violation of policy at the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB). The faculty, staff, and students of UTMB have an affirmative duty to ensure the integrity of all science conducted at UTMB and by UTMB personnel, as well as the primary responsibility for responding to and reporting allegations of research misconduct to the Scientific Integrity Officer at UTMB.

   B. Anyone determined to have violated this policy may face disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment, dismissal from their academic program, or both.

III. Procedures

   A. All institutional members will report observed, suspected, or apparent research misconduct to the Scientific Integrity Officer (SIO) or to the UTMB Fraud, Abuse and Privacy Hotline.

   B. If an individual is unsure whether a suspected incident falls within the definition of research misconduct, he or she should meet with or contact the Scientific Integrity Officer to confidentially discuss the suspected research misconduct informally.

   C. If the circumstances described by the individual do not meet the definition of research misconduct, the Scientific Integrity Officer will refer the individual or allegation to other offices or officials with responsibility for resolving the problem.

   D. The Scientific Integrity Committee’s Policy and Procedure Manual is available for a detailed description of the Committee’s due process procedures.

IV. Definitions

   Research Misconduct means fabrication, falsification, plagiarism, in proposing, performing, or reviewing research or in reporting research results. (a) Fabrication is making up data or results and recording or reporting them. (b) 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
(c) Plagiarism is the appropriation of another person’s ideas, processes, results, or words without giving appropriate credit. (d) Research misconduct does not include honest error or differences of opinion.

V. Relevant Federal and State Statutes
Public Health Service Policy on Scientific Misconduct 42 CFR Part 93.

VI. Related UTMB Policies and Procedures
IHOP - 03.01.09 - Discipline, Dismissal and Appeal for Classified Employees
IHOP - 3.01.10 - Employee Grievance Policy
IHOP - 05.03.08 - Faculty Grievance Policy
IHOP - 05.03.10 - Faculty Termination Policy
IHOP - 07.01.03 - Student Conduct and Discipline Policy

VII. Dates Approved or Amended

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VIII. Contact Information
Research Regulations and Compliance
409-266-9295