

**Institutional Handbook of Operating Procedures  
Policy 05.07.05**

Section: Faculty Policies	Responsible Vice President: Executive Vice President and Provost
Subject 5.7: Educational and Research Support Services	Responsible Entity: Research Regulations and Compliance

**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

record. (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**

<i>Originated: 04/01/1998</i>	
<i>Reviewed with Changes</i>	<i>Reviewed without Substantive Changes</i>
08/15/2010	09/06/2016
	05/19/2021
	02/05/2025

**VIII. Contact Information**

Research Regulations and Compliance  
409-266-9295

