

NOTICE TO REVIEWERS:

CONCERNS ABOUT SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT IN APPLICATIONS

If, during the course of reviewing applications assigned to you for an upcoming meeting, you believe that you may have uncovered a possible situation involving scientific misconduct (see definitions below), contact the Scientific Review Administrator (SRA) immediately. The NIDDK and the NIH have policies and procedures to handle such allegations. You will be advised as to how to proceed.

If potential misconduct is not uncovered until you arrive at the meeting, inform the SRA in private before the meeting begins or as quickly as possible. Do not disclose your concerns publicly in front of the entire review group. The SRA will advise you how to handle the situation and to avoid jeopardizing the review.

Scientific misconduct is defined below:

"Research¹ misconduct is defined as fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism in proposing, performing, or reviewing research, or in reporting research results.

"Fabrication is making up 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.²

"Plagiarism is the appropriation of another person's ideas, processes, results, or words without giving appropriate credit, including those obtained through confidential review of others' research proposals and manuscripts.

"Research misconduct does not include honest error or honest differences of opinion."

¹ Research, as defined herein, includes all basic, applied, and demonstration research in all fields of science, engineering, and mathematics.

² The research record is defined as the record of data or results that embody the facts resulting from scientific inquiry, and includes, for example, laboratory records, both physical and electronic, research proposals, progress reports, abstracts, theses, oral presentations, internal reports, and journal articles."

(Proposed changes to definitions taken from Federal Register, October 14, 1999 [Volume 64, Number 198])