

# Research Compliance at IUP: IRB, IACUC, and Research Misconduct

## IUP's Policy for Responding to Allegations of Research Misconduct:

[www.iup.edu/research/policies/default.aspx](http://www.iup.edu/research/policies/default.aspx)

QUOTING THE POLICY: "Misconduct" or "Research Misconduct" means fabrication, falsification, plagiarism, or other practices that seriously deviate from those that are commonly accepted within the research community for proposing, conducting, or reporting research, including **failure to comply with Federal regulations for protection of researchers, human subjects, the public, or the welfare of laboratory animals**. It **does not include honest error**, honest differences in interpretations or judgments about data, or disputes about authorship (see 42 CFR 93, June 16, 2005).

## IUP's Stats:

- 7 reports of possible research misconduct since August 1, 2013.
  - 1 authorship dispute
  - 4 IRB
    - Outcomes: 2 findings of 'honest error'; 1 advanced to inquiry stage, one under review
  - 2 IACUC
    - Outcomes: 1 finding of honest error; 1 pending
- Hundreds of IRB + IACUC protocols reviewed and research conducted without incidents during this same time period but even one finding of misconduct is too many!

## What are we doing right?

- Building a culture of compliance—the community is noticing when “things just don't seem right” possibly because we have built an expectation of compliance at IUP.
- Providing outreach and training opportunities to promote compliance—through our websites, classroom presentations, responsive emails, handbooks, and on-line CITI training.

## Where do we need to improve?

- Greater recognition that these are Federal Regulations that require 100% compliance.
  - A 'majority of faculty' complying will likely result in the Feds revoking our ability to do human subjects and animal research. 100% must comply
- More faculty being trained in IRB and IACUC regulations to supervise student researchers
  - Policy forthcoming to require student researchers to complete CITI training prior to applying for IRB/IACUC approval
  - Faculty-developed student research handbook forthcoming

## How can you help?

- Discuss and create a culture of compliance with your chairs & faculty
- Demonstrate support for the IRB and IACUC chairs
- Encourage faculty to take CITI online training and/or to reach out to the SGSR, IRB, and IACUC when questions arise

## Consequences of ignoring these regulations?

Failure to follow IRB/IACUC procedures is a violation of federal regulations (42 CFR 93, 45 CFR 46, Animal Welfare Act) that can lead to individual AND university sanctions, fines, and debarment—including loss of ability to conduct human/animal research and loss of apply for research grants.