

Meeting

Sep 08, 2016 - Sept. 8-9, 2016 Regular Board Meeting

Category

2:30 p.m. CONSENT AGENDA

Subject

Revocation of Degree – University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus (APPROVED)

Type

ACTION (Consent)

Recommended Action

RESOLVED that the Board of Regents has received a recommendation from Chancellor Donald Elliman that the Board of Regents revoke a doctoral degree in Pharmaceutical Sciences awarded to Rajendra Kadam.

The Board of Regents has reviewed the underlying reports completed by the campus investigative authorities. It has also reviewed the written response to the recommendation of degree revocation forwarded to it by Rajendra Kadam.

The Board of Regents finds that Mr. Kadam was given adequate notice of the allegations of research misconduct made against him, that he was provided an adequate opportunity to contest the allegations of research misconduct during the investigative process, and that he has received an adequate opportunity to respond to the recommended revocation of his degree. The Board of Regents determines that Rajendra Kadam has received adequate due process.

The Board of Regents finds that Mr. Kadam engaged in acts of research misconduct, as defined in the investigative report of the research misconduct committee and adopts the findings and recommendations contained in that report.

The Board of Regents hereby revokes the doctoral degree in Pharmaceutical Sciences awarded to Rajendra Kadam and directs Chancellor Elliman to take any necessary action to effectuate the revocation.

**Recommendation From:** Chancellor Donald M. Elliman, Jr.

**Statement of Information:**

The Board of Regents must consider whether adequate cause exists for the revocation of Kadam's degree based upon the findings contained in the Investigation Committee report and the recommendation of the University of Colorado administration that his degree be revoked.

The conduct described herein is alleged to violate Article 7.B.1(A) of the Laws of the Regents, which specify that, "by enrolling as a student in the university, a person shall assume obligations of performance and behavior established by the university relevant to its lawful missions, processes, and functions."

Among those standards of behavior established by the university are APS 1007 – Misconduct in Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities and the Student Academic Honor Code. A duly empaneled investigative committee determined that Mr. Kadam's conduct constituted misconduct in research.

The Investigation Committee detailed 22 specific instances of falsification in Mr. Kadam's Ph.D. thesis.

The Investigation Committee found that "Rajendra Kadam was solely responsible for his conduct and it is his conduct that led to the findings of Scientific Misconduct . The committee found no evidence that either [the supervising authority] or any other students or employees were aware of and/or participated in any activity amounting to Scientific Misconduct."

In making its determinations and recommendations, the Investigation Committee defined "falsification" as "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.” The Investigation Committee defined “fabrication” as “making up data or results and recording or reporting them.” The Investigation Committee defined research misconduct in a manner that “does not include honest error or interpretations or misjudgment of data.”

Based upon its findings, the Investigative Committee recommended revocation of the degree on the following grounds: The Investigative Committee considers that the level of falsification identified in Rajendra Kadam’s thesis is substantive. As such, the committee finds that the thesis is significantly impacted and, as such, cannot be considered to meet the requirements of a doctoral thesis - - in part because his thesis does not contain enough valid information to merit the PhD award. In addition, the Investigation Committee contends that it would not be appropriate to condone such unprofessional behavior by the award of a doctoral degree. Therefore, the Investigation Committee recommends to the Deciding Official and the Graduate School that Rajendra Kadam’s thesis be invalidated and his doctorate be withdrawn.

**CHANCELLOR'S SIGNATURE:**

**PRESIDENT'S SIGNATURE:**