



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

National Institutes of Health
Office of Extramural Research
Office of Planning, Analysis and Communication
Rockledge 1, Room 5170
6705 Rockledge Drive, MSC 7995
Bethesda, Maryland 20892-7995
Telephone: (301) 402-1058
E-mail: OERFOIA@mail.nih.gov

Via email: abritis@retractionwatch.com

September 21, 2018

Alison Abritis, PhD
RetractionWatch.com
The Center For Scientific Integrity
121 W 36th St, Suite 209
New York, NY 10018

Re: FOI Case No. 47869

Dear Dr. Abritis:

This responds to your May 8, 2018, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request addressed to the National Institutes of Health FOIA Office, received on the same day. You requested a copy of any Correspondence between the Office of Policy for Extramural Research Administration (OPERA) and officials at Duke University during the month of March 2018.

The NIH FOIA Office queried the files of the NIH Office of Extramural Research (OER) and that office confirmed that the NIH does not possess or maintain the records you have requested.

Please be advised that the records you seek fall under the jurisdiction of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Research Integrity (ORI). Because NIH does not have jurisdiction over HHS records, we have forwarded your request to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of FOIA Services, and that office will make a complete and direct response to you.

If you wish to discuss the status of your request, please direct your inquiry to Freedom of Information Act Services, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Hubert H. Humphrey Building, Room 729H 200 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20201, (202) 690-7453, or to FOIARquest@hhs.gov. I am sure you will be hearing from that office shortly.

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In certain circumstances provisions of the FOIA and HHS FOIA Regulations allow us to recover part of the cost of responding to your request. Because the cost is below the \$25 minimum, there is no charge associated with our response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gorka Garcia-Malene', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gorka Garcia-Malene
NIH FOIA Office, NIH

cc: Michael Marquis, HHS