



Case No. 18-0351-FOIA

October 21, 2021

Sent via email:

Alison Abritis
aabritis@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Abritis:

This letter is the final response to your May 8 21, 2018, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request with the National Institute of Health (NIH). On September 21, 2018, NIH referred your request to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for direct response to you. On September 26, 2018, HHS emailed you an acknowledgment letter for your request. Specifically, you requested the following records: ***“This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act. I request the following records: 1. Any Correspondence between the Office of Policy for Extramural Research Administration (OPERA) and officials at Duke University during the month of March 2018..”***

The Office of Research Integrity (ORI) conducted a search and reports there are no records responsive to your request.

While we believe an adequate search of the appropriate files was conducted for the records requested, you have the right to appeal this finding that no responsive records exist within ORI. By filing an appeal, you preserve your rights under FOIA and give the agency a chance to review and reconsider your request and the agency’s decision.

Please mark the correspondence, “Freedom of Information Act Appeal.” Your appeal must be transmitted within 90 days from the date of receipt of this letter to:

Ms. Carol Maloney
Deputy Agency Chief FOIA Officer
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs
HHS.ACFO@hhs.gov

If you would like to discuss our response before filing an appeal to attempt to resolve your dispute without going through the appeals process, you may contact the HHS FOIA Public Liaison for assistance at:

HHS FOIA/PA Public Liaison
FOI/Privacy Acts Division
Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs (ASPA)
Office of the Secretary (OS)

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
Telephone: (202) 690-7453
Fax: (202) 690-8320
E-mail: HHS_FOIA_Public_Liaison@hhs.gov

If you are unable to resolve your FOIA dispute through our FOIA Public Liaison, the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS), the Federal FOIA Ombudsman's office, offers mediation services to help resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies. The contact information for OGIS is:

Office of Government Information Services
National Archives and Records Administration
Telephone: 202-741-5770
Toll-Free: 1-877-684-6448
E-mail: ogis@nara.gov
Fax: 202-741-5769

There are no charges in this instance because the billable costs are less than our threshold of \$25.

Sincerely yours,

Kris Zadrovitz

for Arianne Perkins
Director, Initial FOIA Requests
FOI/Privacy Acts Division