

September 2, 2014

Office of Research Integrity
Dr. William C. Trenkle
Tower Building, Suite 750
1101 Wootton Pkwy
Rockville, MD 20852

Case DIO-5652

Dear Dr. Trenkle,

Enclosed is a final report from an Inquiry Committee that was charged with examining an allegation of research misconduct made against Dr. Hari Koul's laboratory. The allegation, received June 2, 2014, was made by an anonymous g-mail account from "Procancerresearch". The original allegation referred to alleged misrepresentations of data in three published papers from 2013, 2012 and 2011. The e-mail referred to a website, pubpeer.com on which possible errors in those three papers were revealed.

The Inquiry was performed at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at Shreveport (LSUHSC-S) where Dr. Koul has been employed since November 2013. However, all the work that was presented in the published papers was performed at Dr. Koul's previous institution, the University of Colorado at Denver (UCD). Dr. Alison Lakin at UCD had received the same allegation from Procancerresearch. Dr. Lakin and I have been in contact about this issue since June 2014.

You, Dr. Lakin and I discussed this Inquiry at length by phone on August 27, 2014. I greatly appreciate your advice and instructions on the next

procedures for us to follow. Since our conversation, I have contacted LSUHSC-S legal counsel, Ms. Susan Armstrong. I am working with her and our IT department to obtain forensic copies of the hard drives in Dr. Koul's computers.

Enclosed are the final Inquiry Report and accompanying documents as indicated on the Report Intake Checklist – Inquiry. The Inquiry Committee examined the information found on the pubpeer.com website and the three manuscripts originally mentioned by Procancerresearch, as well as some of the additional 5 manuscripts that later appeared on pubpeer.com. The committee did not examine original data. The committee concluded that a thorough investigation of the matter is warranted.

Also enclosed is a thumbdrive that contains electronic versions of all the printed material.

Please let me know if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

Sandra C. Roerig, Ph.D.
Dean, School of Graduate Studies
Associate Dean for Research
Research Integrity Officer