

equipment and means necessary, especially to determine automotive fuel ratings and comply with the Rule. Industry members, however, incur the cost of procuring fuel dispenser and AFV labels to comply with the Rule. The estimated annual fuel labeling cost, based on estimates of 500 fuel dispensers (assumptions: an estimated 20% of 1,250 total retailers need to replace labels in any given year given an approximately five-year life for labels—*i.e.*, 250 retailers—multiplied by an average of two dispensers per retailer) at thirty-eight cents for each label (per industry sources), is \$190.00.

#### *AFV Manufacturers*

Here, too, staff believes that there are no current start-up costs associated with the Rule, for the same reasons as stated immediately above regarding the non-liquid alternative fuel industry. However, based on the labeling of an estimated 30,000 new and used AFVs each year at thirty-eight cents for each label (per industry sources), the annual AFV labeling costs is estimated to be \$11,400. Estimated total annual non-labor cost burden associated with the Rule, therefore, would be \$12,000 (\$190.00 + \$11,400.00), rounded to the nearest thousand.

**William E. Kovacic,**

*General Counsel.*

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### **FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION**

#### **Delegation of Authority to Disclose Certain Nonpublic Information to Consumer Reporting Agencies**

**AGENCY:** Federal Trade Commission (FTC).

**ACTION:** Delegation of authority.

**SUMMARY:** The Commission has delegated authority to the Director of the Bureau of Consumer Protection, subject to redelegation, to share certain non-public information with consumer reporting agencies.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** July 28, 2003.

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Monique F. Einhorn, Attorney, Division of Planning and Information, 202-326-2575, [meinhorn@ftc.gov](mailto:meinhorn@ftc.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Reorganization Plan No. 4 of 1961, 26 FR 6191, that the Commission has delegated to the Director of the Bureau of Consumer Protection, subject to redelegation, the authority to disclose consumer complaint information from

the Identify Theft Data Clearinghouse and Consumer Information System databases to consumer reporting agencies. The consumer complaint information will be disclosed to promote resolution of the complaints.

This delegation does not apply to competition-related investigations. When exercising its authority under this delegation, staff will require from the consumer reporting agency assurances of confidentiality. Disclosures shall be made only to the extent consistent with limitations on disclosure, including section 6(f) of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. 46(f), section 21 of the Act, 15 U.S.C. 57b-2, and Commission Rule 4.10(d), 16 C.F.R. 4.10(d), and with the Commission's enforcement policies and other important interests.<sup>1</sup>

The delegation will first be exercised on the date of the first disclosure and will continue for twelve (12) months thereafter.

By direction of the Commission.

**Donald S. Clark,**

*Secretary.*

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**BILLING CODE 6750-01-M**

### **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

#### **Office of the Secretary**

#### **Findings of Scientific Misconduct**

**AGENCY:** Office of the Secretary, HHS.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the Office of Research Integrity (ORI) and the Assistant Secretary for Health have taken final action in the following case:

*Thonithi Karunakaran, Boston Medical Center:* Based on the report of an investigation conducted by Boston Medical Center (BMC Report) and additional analysis performed by ORI in its oversight review, the U.S. Public Health Service (PHS) found that Thonithi Karunakaran, Ph.D., former Research Scientist at BMC, engaged in scientific misconduct by plagiarizing, falsifying, and fabricating research that he reported to his supervisor for the project "Hemin Utilization by Porphyromonas gingivalis," funded by

<sup>1</sup> The Commission's authority to share is consistent with the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, 5 U.S.C. 552a, and section 5 of the Identity Theft and Assumption Deterrence Act of 1998, Pub. L. 105-318, 112 Stat. 3007, 3010, 18 U.S.C. 1028 note. See 58 FR 45678, 45700 (1992); 64 FR 57887 (1999) (FTC Privacy Act system notices for consumer complaint system generally and identity theft complaint system specifically, specifying routine uses of system records).

National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, (NIDCR), National Institutes of Health (NIH), grant R01 DE09161-11.

Specifically, PHS found that Dr. Karunakaran engaged in scientific misconduct by:

(1) Plagiarizing a *P. gingivalis* strain W83 DNA sequence from an Internet database and misrepresenting to his supervisor that the Internet database printout represented his own cloning and sequencing of strain A7436 fur gene X;

(2) Fabricating the claim to have obtained sequence data for a strain A7436 cloned fur gene X from a sequencing facility at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT); and

(3) Falsifying unrelated sequencing data from a graduate student's notebook in the laboratory by trimming off the identifying header and misrepresenting it to his supervisor as primary data from his sequencing of the A7436 fur gene X.

There were no published papers that required correction or retraction.

The following administrative actions have been implemented for a period of three (3) years, beginning on July 17, 2003:

(1) Dr. Karunakaran is debarred from eligibility for or involvement in Federal covered transactions (*i.e.*, any Federal transaction other than a procurement transaction) and from contracting or subcontracting with any Federal government agency; this action is being taken pursuant to the debarment regulation pertaining to grants and other forms of assistance (45 CFR part 76); and

(2) Dr. Karunakaran is prohibited from serving in any advisory capacity to PHS including, but not limited to, service on any PHS advisory committee, board, and/or peer review committee, or as a consultant.

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Director, Division of Investigative Oversight, Office of Research Integrity, 1101 Wootton Parkway, Suite 750, Rockville, MD 20852, (301) 443-5330.

**Lawrence J. Rhoades,**

*Acting Director, Office of Research Integrity.*

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