

website at: <http://www.hrsa.gov/bhpr/rickyray>.

### Paperwork Reduction Act

The information collection requirements for the Ricky Ray Homophilia Relief Fund (42 CFR part 130) have been approved under OMB No. 0915-0244.

Dated: September 24, 2002.

**Elizabeth M. Duke,**

*Administrator.*

[FR Doc. 02-24953 Filed 10-1-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4165-15-P

## 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:

*Heather J. Muenchen, Ph.D., University of Michigan:* Based on the report of an investigation conducted by the University of Michigan (UM), Dr. Muenchen's admissions, and additional analysis conducted by ORI in its oversight review, the U.S. Public Health Service (PHS) found that Dr. Muenchen, former postdoctoral fellow at UM, engaged in scientific misconduct in research funded by National Institutes of Health (NIH) Urology Research Training Grant T32 DK07758 and SPORE grant PSO CA69568. Dr. Muenchen falsified and fabricated research data by computer manipulation of 12 Western blot analyses in three publications and two draft manuscripts.

Specifically, PHS found that Dr. Muenchen:

(1) Falsified Western blot data in Figures 3, 4A, and 4B in the following paper: Muenchen, H.J., Lin, D-L., Walsh, M.A., Keller, E.T., and Pienta, K.J. "Tumor necrosis factor- $\alpha$ -induced apoptosis in prostate cancer cells through inhibition of nuclear factor- $\kappa$ B by an I $\kappa$ B $\alpha$  'super-repressor.'" *Clinical Cancer Research* 6(5):1969-1977, 2000;

(2) Falsified Western blot data in Figures 2 and 3 in the following paper: Muenchen, H.J., Poncza, P.J., and Pienta, K.J. "Different docetaxel-induced apoptotic pathways are present in prostate cancer cell lines LNCaP and PC-3." *Urology* 57(2):366-370, 2001;

(3) Falsified Western blots and associated claims for Figures 1, 5A, 5B, and 8 in the following paper: Muenchen, H.J., Lin, D-L., Poncza, P.J., McLean, L.L., Dirette, M.L., Keller, E.T., and Pienta, K.J. "Re-expression of functional androgen receptor in androgen-independent prostate cancer cells." Published electronically on November 13, 2000 in the *Journal of Biological Chemistry* (JBC) as Online Manuscript M008934200 (withdrawn January 16, 2001); and

(4) Falsified Western blot analyses in Figures 4A, 4B, and 7 of the original draft submitted for publication on September 29, 2000, (and the corresponding Figures 5A, 5B, and 8 in the second draft submitted October 20, 2000) of the JBC manuscript.

Dr. Muenchen was the first and corresponding author on the above publications, which were supported in part by Urology Research Training Grant T32 DK07758 and SPORE grant P50 CA69568. These falsifications are significant because they misrepresent the expression of the androgen receptor, the necessary control data, the evidence for "super-repressor" binding and its effect, and the control data for assaying apoptosis. These misrepresentations occurred through a series of separate and specific deceptions in an attempt to obviate the legitimate criticisms of publication reviewers. These falsifications were designed to be misleading about the experiments' true results and to wrongfully induce publication of the experiments. Dr. Muenchen's work could have provided tools for understanding metastasis in prostate cancer and ultimately impact on treatment of this disease.

Dr. Muenchen has entered into a Voluntary Exclusion Agreement in which she has voluntarily agreed:

(1) To exclude herself from any contracting or subcontracting with any agency of the United States Government and from eligibility for, or involvement in, nonprocurement transactions (e.g., grants and cooperative agreements) of the United States Government as defined in 45 CFR part 76 (Debarment Regulations) for a period of five (5) years, beginning on September 5, 2002;

(2) To exclude herself 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 a period of five (5) years, beginning on September 5, 2002; and

(3) Within 30 days of the effective date of this Agreement, to submit letters of retraction to the editor of *Urology* retracting the paper published at 57(2):366-370, 2001, and to the editor of

*Clinical Cancer Research*, published at 6(5):1969-1977, 2000, identifying and retracting the falsified or fabricated data in Figure 3 and Figures 4A and 4B. The retraction requirements will remain on the ALERT System until Dr. Muenchen sends, and ORI receives, copies of the retraction letters consistent with the above language.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Director, Division of Investigative Oversight, Office of Research Integrity, 5515 Security Lane, Suite 700, Rockville, MD 20852, (301) 443-5330.

**Chris B. Pascal,**

*Director, Office of Research Integrity.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[Program Announcement 02185]

#### Cooperative Agreement to the Association of Immunization Managers; Notice of Award of Funds

##### A. Purpose

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announces the availability of fiscal year (FY) 2002 funds for a cooperative agreement program for the Association of Immunization Managers. This program addresses the "Healthy People 2010" focus area of Immunization and Infectious Diseases.

The purpose of the program is to (1) maintain an effective communication capacity among the nation's immunization program managers and CDC; (2) sustain a capacity to coordinate both rapid and comprehensive assessments of problems and opportunities faced by immunization managers; and (3) establish a capacity to coordinate the consultations and collaborations that will enable state and local health departments to assimilate and implement the latest programmatic, scientific and technological developments and concepts affecting the goal of immunizing our nation's citizens.

##### B. Eligible Applicants

Assistance will be provided only to the Association of Immunization Managers (AIM). No other applications are solicited. AIM is the only organization that has an established relationship with state and local health department immunization programs, access to public health managers and