

As a result of its investigation, OSU has recommended that all of the above publications be retracted.

Specifically, ORI finds that Respondent:

- Falsified and/or fabricated Western blots in an NIH grant application in three submissions of the same grant application:

- Figures 4, 7, 11C: 1 R21 HD058997–01

- Figures 7B, 7E, 8B: 1 R21 HD058997–01A1

- Figures 3C, 3F, 6C: 1 R21 HD058997–01A2

and false Western blots were also included in Figure 6 in grant application 1 RC1 HL100298–01.

- Falsified and/or fabricated Western blots in eighteen (18) figures and in six (6) published papers. Specifically false and/or fabricated images were included in:

- Figures 2C, 2D, 2F, 3C, 3E, 4G, 5C, 5F: *J Biol Chem* 285(2):1529–43, 2010 Jan 8

- Figures 3B, 3C, 3F, 3H, 3I, 3J: *Biochem Biophys Res Commun* 370(3):473–7, 2008 Jun 6

- Figures 2, 3, 4B, 5B, 6, 7B, 8A, 9B: *Am. J. Physiol. Lung Cell. Mol. Physiol.* 293(3):L790–9, 2007 Sept

- Figure 6: *J Biol Chem* 282(33):24262–9, 2007 Aug 17

- Figure 6: *Mol Cell Endocrinol* 249(1–2):21–31, 2006 Apr 25

- Figures 5, 6B, 7B, 9B: *Biochim. Biophys. Acta* 1680(3):158–70, 2004 Nov 5.

Dr. Elton has entered into a Voluntary Exclusion Agreement and has voluntarily agreed:

(1) To exclude himself from any contracting or subcontracting with any agency of the United States Government and from eligibility or involvement in nonprocurement programs of the United States Government referred to as “covered transactions” pursuant to HHS’ Implementation (2 CFR part 376 *et seq.*) of OMB Guidelines to Agencies on Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension, 2 CFR part 180 (collectively the “Debarment Regulations”) for a period of three (3) years, beginning on November 26, 2012;

(2) To exclude himself voluntarily 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 three (3) years, beginning on November 26, 2012; and

(3) To request that the following publications be retracted:

- *J Biol Chem* 285(2):1529–43, 2010 Jan 8

- *Biochem Biophys Res Commun* 370(3):473–7, 2008 Jun 6

- *J Biol Chem* 282(33):24262–9, 2007, Aug 17

- *Mol Cell Endocrinol* 249(1–2):21–31, 2006 Apr 25

- *Biochim. Biophys. Acta*.

1680(3):158–70, 2004 Nov 5.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Director, Office of Research Integrity, 1101 Wootton Parkway, Suite 750, Rockville, MD 20852, (240) 453–8200.

John E. Dahlberg,

Deputy Director, Office of Research Integrity.

[FR Doc. 2012–30866 Filed 12–21–12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4150–31–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Public Meeting of the Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues

AGENCY: Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues (the Commission) will conduct its twelfth meeting in January. At this meeting, the Commission will continue discussing topics related to the ethical issues associated with the development of medical countermeasures for children.

DATES: The meeting will take place Monday and Tuesday, January 14–15, 2013.

ADDRESSES: University of Miami Hospital Seminar Center, 1400 NW. 12th Avenue, First Floor, Miami, Florida 33136. Telephone (305) 689–5511.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Hillary Wicai Viers, Communications Director, Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues, 1425 New York Avenue NW., Suite C–100, Washington, DC 20005. Telephone: 202–233–3960. Email: Hillary.Viers@bioethics.gov. Additional information may be obtained at www.bioethics.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972, Public Law 92–463, 5 U.S.C. app. 2, notice is hereby given of the twelfth meeting of the Commission. The meeting will be held from 9 a.m. to approximately 5 p.m. on Monday, January 14, 2013, and from 9 a.m. to approximately 11:45 a.m. on Tuesday,

January 15, 2013, in Miami, Fla. The meeting will be open to the public with attendance limited to space available. The meeting will also be webcast at www.bioethics.gov.

Under authority of Executive Order 13521, dated November 24, 2009, the President established the Commission. The Commission is an advisory panel of the nation’s leaders in medicine, science, ethics, religion, law, and engineering. The Commission advises the President on bioethical issues arising from advances in biomedicine and related areas of science and technology. The Commission seeks to identify and promote policies and practices that ensure scientific research, health care delivery, and technological innovation are conducted in a socially and ethically responsible manner.

The main agenda item for the Commission’s twelfth meeting is to continue discussing topics related to the ethical issues associated with the development of medical countermeasures for children.

The draft meeting agenda and other information about the Commission, including information about access to the webcast, will be available at www.bioethics.gov.

The Commission welcomes input from anyone wishing to provide public comment on any issue before it. Respectful debate of opposing views and active participation by citizens in public exchange of ideas enhances overall public understanding of the issues at hand and conclusions reached by the Commission. The Commission is particularly interested in receiving comments and questions during the meeting that are responsive to specific sessions. Written comments will be accepted at the registration desk and comment forms will be provided to members of the public in order to write down questions and comments for the Commission as they arise. To accommodate as many individuals as possible, the time for each question or comment may be limited. If the number of individuals wishing to pose a question or make a comment is greater than can reasonably be accommodated during the scheduled meeting, the Commission may make a random selection.

Anyone planning to attend the meeting who needs special assistance, such as sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodations, should notify Esther Yoo by telephone at (202) 233–3960, or email at Esther.Yoo@bioethics.gov in advance of the meeting. The Commission will make every effort to accommodate persons who need special assistance.

Written comments will also be accepted in advance of the meeting and are especially welcome. Please address written comments by email to info@bioethics.gov, or by mail to the following address: Public Commentary, Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues, 1425 New York Ave. NW., Suite C-100, Washington, DC 20005. Comments will be publicly available, including any personally identifiable or confidential business information that they contain. Trade secrets should not be submitted.

Dated: December 17, 2012.

Lisa M. Lee,

Executive Director, Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues.

[FR Doc. 2012-31037 Filed 12-21-12; 4:15 pm]

BILLING CODE 4154-06-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the intention of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) to request that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approve the proposed changes to the currently approved information collection project: "Medical Expenditure Panel Survey—Insurance Component." In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, 44 U.S.C. 3501-3521, AHRQ invites the public to comment on this proposed information collection.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by February 22, 2013.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be submitted to: Doris Lefkowitz, Reports Clearance Officer, AHRQ, by email at doris.lefkowitz@AHRQ.hhs.gov.

Copies of the proposed collection plans, data collection instruments, and specific details on the estimated burden can be obtained from the AHRQ Reports Clearance Officer.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Doris Lefkowitz, AHRQ Reports Clearance Officer, (301) 427-1477, or by email at doris.lefkowitz@AHRQ.hhs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Proposed Project

Medical Expenditure Panel Survey—Insurance Component

Employer-sponsored health insurance is the source of coverage for 85 million current and former workers, plus many of their family members, and is a cornerstone of the U.S. health care system. The Medical Expenditure Panel Survey—Insurance Component (MEPS-IC) measures the extent, cost, and coverage of employer-sponsored health insurance on an annual basis. Private industry statistics are produced at the National, State, and sub-State (metropolitan area) level and State and local government statistics at the National and Census Region level. Statistics are also produced for State and Local governments. The MEPS-IC was last approved by OMB on December 12th, 2012 and will expire on December 31st, 2014. The OMB control number for the MEPS-IC is 0935-0110. All of the supporting documents for the current MEPS-IC can be downloaded from OMB's Web site at http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAPViewDocument?ref_nbr=201110-0935-001.

The current MEPS-IC clearance noted the possibility of making changes to the 2013 MEPS-IC survey in order to address data needs for Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) and other issues. AHRQ solicited input on possible new questions from a working group of over 50 individuals that included multiple representatives from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE), the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight, the CMS Office of the Actuary, the National Center for Health Statistics, the President's Council of Economic Advisors, the Office of Management and Budget, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Employee Benefits Security Administration, and the Bureau of the Census.

After the working group agreed on a reasonable number of specific questions, the Bureau of the Census, at AHRQ's direction, conducted a pretest of these questions on a sampled set of 2012 MEPS-IC survey respondents. A telephone pretest was conducted in the spring and summer of 2012. The results of this pretest, conducted under the Census Bureau's generic pretest clearance process, led to AHRQ recommending that a subset of the tested questions be added to the survey in 2013. To avoid increasing the overall

burden on survey respondents, a proportional number of questions have been proposed for deletion. Questions identified for deletion were those with limited analytic value and/or below-average response rates. The AHRQ recommendations were accepted by the HHS Data Council in November 2012.

For all establishment-level MEPS-IC forms, AHRQ proposes to make the following changes to questions asked of employers who offer health insurance:

Additions

- Did your organization offer health insurance to unmarried domestic partners of the same sex? Yes/No/Don't Know
- Did your organization offer health insurance to unmarried domestic partners of the opposite sex? Yes/No/Don't Know

Deletions

- For 2013, what was the TYPICAL waiting period before new employees could be covered by health insurance? Less than 2 weeks/2 weeks to less than 1 month/Until the first day of the next month/1-3 months/More than 3 months
- Did your organization place any limits or restrictions on health insurance coverage for the spouse of an employee if the spouse had access to coverage through another employer? Yes/No/Don't Know

For all plan-level MEPS-IC forms, AHRQ proposes to make the following changes:

Additions

- (For self-insured health plans that purchase stop-loss coverage) What is the specific stop-loss coverage amount per employee? \$_____.00
- Did the premiums for this insurance plan vary by any of these characteristics? Smoker/non-smoker will be added to current list of Age, Gender, Wage or Salary levels, and Other. The "Premiums did not vary" response checkbox will be deleted and replaced with Yes/No/Don't Know responses for each characteristic.
- Did the amount an employee contributed toward his/her own coverage vary by any of these employee characteristics? Participation in a fitness/weight loss program and participation in a smoking cessation program will be added to the current list of Hours worked, Union status, Wage or salary level, Occupation, Length of employment, and Other. The "Employee contribution did not vary" response checkbox will be deleted and replaced with Yes/No/Don't Know responses for each characteristic.