

The Federal Open Market Committee seeks monetary and financial conditions that will foster price stability and promote sustainable growth in output. To further its long-run objectives, the Committee in the immediate future seeks conditions in reserve markets consistent with reducing the federal funds rate to an average of around 2 percent.

By order of the Federal Open Market Committee, December 17, 2001.

Donald L. Kohn,

Secretary, Federal Open Market Committee.

[FR Doc. 01-31606 Filed 12-21-01; 8:45 am]

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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:

Ms. Vilma Valentin, Boston University School of Medicine: Based on the report of an investigation conducted by the Boston University (BU) School of Medicine (BU Report) as well as additional analysis conducted by ORI in its oversight review, the U.S. Public Health Service (PHS) found that Ms. Vilma Valentin, a former counselor and interventionist on the BU Inner City Asthma Study at the BU School of Medicine, engaged in scientific misconduct by fabricating records in research funded by two National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), National Institutes of Health (NIH), cooperative agreements: U01 AI39776, "Data Coordinating Center for NCICAS II," and U01 AI39769, "Trial of Interventions to Reduce Asthma Morbidity."

Specifically, PHS found that Ms. Valentin fabricated: (1) The data on three environmental intervention forms for visits that she allegedly made to two patients' homes in early and late August 1999; these visits did not take place; and (2) the reports of two telephone calls that she allegedly made to the two patients' families during the same

period; these calls were not made. The study intervention included home visits, telephone calls, and advocacy letters, all of which were central to the research, which sought to evaluate the effectiveness of two interventions to reduce asthma severity. Thus, the data and reports could have had a substantive effect on the outcome of the research had the institution not corrected the research record.

While acknowledging the findings of scientific misconduct as set forth above and in the BU Report but without admitting liability or wrongdoing, Ms. Valentin has entered into a Voluntary Exclusion Agreement in which she has voluntarily agreed for a period of three (3) years, beginning on December 5, 2001:

(1) 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; and

(2) That any institution that submits an application for PHS support for a research project on which Ms. Valentin's participation is proposed, that uses her in any capacity on PHS-supported research, or that submits a report of PHS-funded research in which she is involved, must concurrently submit a plan for supervision of her duties to the funding agency for approval. The supervisory plan must be designed to ensure the scientific integrity of Ms. Valentin's research contribution.

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

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

Notice of Meetings

In accordance with section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act as amended (5 U.S.C., Appendix 2), the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) announces meetings of scientific peer review groups. The peer review groups listed below are subcommittees of the Agency's Health Services Research Initial Review Group Committee.

The subcommittee meetings will be closed to the public in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, section 10(d) of 5 U.S.C., Appendix 2 and 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(6). Grant applications are to be reviewed and discussed at these meetings. These discussions are likely to reveal personal information concerning individuals associated with the applications. This information is exempt from mandatory disclosure under the above-cited statutes.

1. *Name of Subcommittee:* Health Care Research Training.

Date: January 24-25, 2002 (Open from 8 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. and closed for remainder of the meeting).

Place: AHRQ 6010 Executive Boulevard, 4th Floor Conference Center, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

2. *Name of Subcommittee:* Health Care Technology and Decision Sciences.

Date: February 21-22, 2002 (Open from 8 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. and closed for remainder of the meeting).

Place: AHRQ 6010 Executive Boulevard, 4th Floor Conference Center, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

3. *Name of Subcommittee:* Health Systems Research.

Date: February 28-March 1, 2002 (Open from 8 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. and closed for remainder of the meeting).

Place: AHRQ 6010 Executive Boulevard, 4th Floor Conference Center, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

4. *Name of Subcommittee:* Health Research Dissemination and Implementation.

Date: February 28-March 1, 2002 (Open from 8 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. and closed for remainder of the meeting).

Place: AHRQ 6010 Executive Boulevard, 4th Floor Conference Center, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

5. *Name of Subcommittee:* Health Care Quality and Effectiveness Research.

Date: March 7-8, 2002 (Open from 8 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. and closed for remainder of the meeting).

Place: AHRQ 6010 Executive Boulevard, 4th Floor Conference Center, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

Contact Person: Anyone wishing to obtain a roster of members, agenda or minutes of the nonconfidential portions of the meetings should contact Mrs. Bonnie Campbell, Committee Management Officer, Office of Research Review, Education and Policy, AHRQ, 2101 East Jefferson Street, Suite 400, Rockville, Maryland 20852, Telephone (301) 594-1846.

Agenda items for these meetings are subject to change as priorities dictate.

Dated: December 18, 2001.

John M. Eisenberg,

Director.

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at the meeting, are available upon request to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Washington, D.C. 20551. The minutes are published in the Federal Reserve Bulletin and in the Board's annual report.