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) has made a final finding of scientific misconduct in the following case:

Weidong Sun, M.D., Ph.D., Medical College of Pennsylvania and Hahnemann University: Based upon a report forwarded to the Office of Research Integrity (ORI) by the Medical College of Pennsylvania and Hahnemann University as well as information obtained by ORI during its oversight review, ORI found that Dr. Sun, a former graduate student in the Department of Physiology, Medical College of Pennsylvania and Hahnemann University, engaged in scientific misconduct by falsifying data in conducting and reporting research supported by a grant from the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS), National Institutes of Health (NIH). The research also was reported in applications requesting funding from NIAMS and the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK), NIH.

Specifically, Dr. Sun falsified data by misrepresenting cloned DNA sequences from chicken non-muscle myosin as an isoform of neuronal myosin II from rat brain. The falsified cDNA was included in the following publications and nucleotide sequences in GenBank and EMBL databases:

- Sun, W.D., & Chantler, P.D. ''Cloning of the cDNA encoding a neuronal myosin heavy chain from mammalian brand and its differential expression within the central nervous system.'' Journal of Molecular Biology 224(4):1185–1193, 1992;
- Sun, W.D., & Chantler, P.D. ''A unique cellular myosin II exhibiting differential expression in the cerebral cortex.'' Biochemical and Biophysical Research Communications 175(1):244–249, 1991;
- Sun, W., Chen, X., & Chantler, P.D. ''Inhibition of neuritogenesis by antisense arrest of the expression of a specific isoform of brain myosin II.'' Journal of Muscle Research and Cell Motility 15:184–185, 1994;
- M64596, ''Rat myosin II mRNA, 3' end.'' [RETMYOSII];
- M80591, ''Rat neuronal myosin heavy chain mRNA, 3' end.'' [RATMYOH3E];
- M94962, ''Rattus rattus neuronal myosin heavy chain gene promoter sequence.'' [RATMYOPRO]; and
- X62659, S98128, ''R.rattus MRNA for brain neuronal myosin heavy chain.'' [RRNMYOHC].

Retractions of the publications and deletions from the public data banks have been requested.

Dr. Sun has accepted the ORI finding and has entered into a Voluntary Exclusion Agreement with ORI in which he has voluntarily agreed, for the three (3) year period beginning April 17, 1997:

(1) To exclude himself 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); and

(2) To exclude himself from serving in any advisory capacity to the Public Health Service (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: Acting Director, Division of Research Investigations, Office of Research Integrity, 5515 Security Lane, Suite 700, Rockville, MD 20852, (301) 443–5330.

Chris B. Pascal,

Acting Director, Office of Research Integrity.

[FR Doc. 97–10908 Filed 4–25–97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Agency for Health Care Policy and Research

Contract Review Meeting

In accordance with Section 10(a) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2), announcement is made of the following advisory subcommittee scheduled to meet during the month of May 1997:

Name: Subcommittee on Evidence-based Practice Centers (EPCS).

Date and Time: May 5–7, 1997, 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Place: Ramada Inn Rockville, 1775 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852.

This meeting will be closed to the public.

Purpose: The Subcommittee's charge is to provide, on behalf of the Health Care Policy and Research Contracts Review Committee, advise and recommendations to the Secretary and to the Administrator, Agency for Health Care Policy and Research (AHCPR), regarding the scientific and technical merit of contract proposals submitted in response to a specific Request for Proposals regarding EPCs that was published in the Commerce Business Daily on November 22, 1996.

The purpose of this contract is to establish EPCs to produce evidence reports and technology assessments that may be used as a scientific foundation for development and implementation of clinical practice guidelines and other clinical quality improvement tools, and for making decisions related to the effectiveness or appropriateness of specific health care technologies.

Agenda: The session of the Subcommittee will be devoted entirely to the technical review and evaluation of contract proposals submitted in response to a specific Request for Proposals. The Administrator, AHCPR, has made a formal determination that this meeting will not be open to the public. This action is necessary to protect the free exchange of views and avoid undue interference with Committee and Department operations, and safeguard confidential proprietary information and personal information concerning individuals associated with the proposals that may be revealed during the sessions. It is in accordance with section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C., Appendix 2, Department regulations, 45 CFR 11.5(a)(6), and procurement regulations, 48 CFR 315.604(d).

Anyone wishing to obtain information regarding this meeting should contact Al Deal, Office of Management, Contracts Management Staff, Agency for Health Care Policy and Research, Executive Office Center, 2101 East Jefferson Street, suite 601, Rockville, Maryland 20852, 301/594–1445.

Dated: April 16, 1997.

John M. Eisenberg,

Administrator.

[FR Doc. 97–10833 Filed 4–25–97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[INFO–97–10]

Proposed Data Collections Submitted for Public Comment and Recommendations

In compliance with the requirement of Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 for opportunity for public comment on proposed data collection projects, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will publish periodic summaries of proposed projects. To request more information on the proposed projects or to obtain a copy of the data collection plans and instruments, call the CDC Reports Clearance Officer on (404) 639–7090.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information

is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques for other forms of information technology. Send comments to Wilma Johnson, CDC Reports Clearance Officer, 1600 Clifton Road, MS–D24, Atlanta, GA 30333. Written comments should be received within 60 days of this notice.

Proposed Projects

1. A Survey to Assess The Knowledge, Attitudes And Practices of Health Care Providers Serving Pregnant Women Regarding HIV Counseling and Testing and the Use Of Zidovudine (ZDV) During Pregnancy—New—This is a new data collection. The purpose of this survey is to assess the knowledge, attitudes, and practices of health care providers serving pregnant women regarding HIV counseling and testing and use of ZDV during pregnancy. Data will be collected and reported to CDC to describe: (1) Providers' current practices in providing prenatal care to HIV-infected women, offering HIV counseling and testing to pregnant women, and offering ZDV to HIV-infected pregnant women; (2) providers' knowledge of the ACTG 076 results and PHS perinatal transmission guidelines; (3) providers' attitudes regarding HIV counseling and testing of pregnant women; and, (4) providers' knowledge and experience in the use of ZDV in treating HIV-infected pregnant women.

The intended population to be studied is physicians and nurse-midwives providing prenatal care in four areas (State of Connecticut, potential population approximately 685; State of North Carolina, potential population approximately 1,500; Dade County, FL, potential population approximately 500; Brooklyn, NY, potential population approximately 260) where institutions are currently conducting a CDC-funded study related to implementation of the PHS guidelines to prevent perinatal transmission of HIV. The total estimated cost to respondents is $40,370.

Respondents	Number of respondents	Number of responses/respondent (in hrs.)	Total burden (in hrs.)
Census: Secretaries	2,800	1	46
Census: Midwives	350	1	6
Pilot: Midwives	15	1	2.5
Pilot: Doctors	240	1	40
Survey: Midwives	350	1	58.3
Survey: Doctors	2,000	1	333.3
Total	.....	.....	486.1

Dated: April 22, 1997.

Wilma G. Johnson,

Acting Associate Director for Policy Planning and Evaluation, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

[FR Doc. 97–10826 Filed 4–25–97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[30DAY–7–97]

Agency Forms Undergoing Paperwork Reduction Act Review

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) publishes a list of information collection requests under review by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). To request a copy of these requests, call the CDC Reports Clearance Office on (404) 639–7090. Send written comments to CDC, Desk Officer; Human Resources and Housing Branch, New Executive Office Building, Room 10235; Washington, DC 20503. Written comments should be received within 30 days of this notice.

Proposed Project

1. Information Collection Procedures for Requesting Public Health Assessments—(0923–0002)—Extension—The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry is announcing the request for a 3-year extension of the OMB approval for the Information Collection Procedures for Requesting Public Health Assessments. ATSDR is authorized to accept and respond to petitions from the public that request public health assessments of sites where there is a threat of exposure to hazardous substances (42 USC 9604(i)(6)(B)). The Agency conducts public health assessments of releases or facilities for which individuals provide information that people have been exposed to a hazardous substance, and for which the source of such exposure is a release, as defined under CERCLA. The general administrative procedures for conducting public health assessments, including the information that must be submitted with each request, is described at 42 CFR 90.3, 90.4, and 90.5. Procedures for responding to petitions, decision criteria, and methodology for determining priorities may be found at 57 FR 37382–89.

ATSDR anticipates approximately 36 requests will be received each year. This estimate is based on the number of requests received since the enabling legislation was enacted and the expressions of interest (via telephone, letter, etc.) from members of the public, attorneys, and industry representatives. The total annual burden hours are 18.

Respondents	Number of respondents	Number of responses/respondent	Avg. burden/response (in hrs.)
General Public	36	1	.50