

*Basic research.* Systematic study directed toward fuller knowledge or understanding of the fundamental aspects of phenomena and of observable facts without specific applications towards processes or products in mind.

*Extramural research.* Research conducted by any research institution other than the Federal agency to which the funds supporting the research were appropriated. Research institutions conducting extramural research may include Federal research facilities.

*Fabrication.* Making up data or results and recording or reporting them.

*Falsification.* Manipulating research materials, equipment, or processes, or changing or omitting data or results such that the research is not accurately represented in the research record.

*Finding of research misconduct.* The conclusion, proven by a preponderance of the evidence, that research misconduct occurred, that such research misconduct represented a significant departure from accepted practices of the relevant research community, and that such research misconduct was committed intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly.

*Inquiry.* The stage in the response to an allegation of research misconduct when an assessment is made to determine whether the allegation has substance and whether an investigation is warranted.

*Intramural research.* Research conducted by a Federal Agency, to which funds were appropriated for the purpose of conducting research.

*Investigation.* The stage in the response to an allegation of research misconduct when the factual record is formally developed and examined to determine whether to dismiss the case, recommend a finding of research misconduct, and/or take other appropriate remedies.

*Office of Inspector General (OIG).* The Office of Inspector General of the United States Department of Agriculture.

*Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP).* The Office of Science and Technology Policy of the Executive Office of the President.

*Plagiarism.* The appropriation of another person's ideas, processes, results,

or words without giving appropriate credit.

*Preponderance of the evidence.* Proof by information that, compared with that opposing it, leads to the conclusion that the fact at issue is more probably true than not.

*Research.* All basic, applied, and demonstration research in all fields of science, engineering, and mathematics. This includes, but is not limited to, research in economics, education, linguistics, medicine, psychology, social sciences, statistics, and research involving human subjects or animals regardless of the funding mechanism used to support it.

*Research institution.* All organizations using Federal funds for research, including, for example, colleges and universities, Federally funded research and development centers, national user facilities, industrial laboratories, or other research institutes.

*Research misconduct.* Fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism in proposing, performing, or reviewing research, or in reporting research results. Research misconduct does not include honest error or differences of opinion.

*Research record.* The record of data or results that embody the facts resulting from scientific inquiry, and includes, but is not limited to, research proposals, research records (including data, notes, journals, laboratory records (both physical and electronic)), progress reports, abstracts, theses, oral presentations, internal reports, and journal articles.

*USDA.* United States Department of Agriculture.

*USDA Research Integrity Officer (USDA RIO).* The individual designated by the Office of the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics (REE) who is responsible for:

- (1) Overseeing USDA agency responses to allegations of research misconduct;
- (2) Ensuring that agency research misconduct procedures are consistent with this part;
- (3) Receiving and assigning allegations of research misconduct reported by the public;
- (4) Developing Memoranda of Understanding with agencies that elect not