



National Institutes of Health

Bethesda, Maryland 20892

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- o He translates the NIH progress report into a foreign language and submits it to the foreign funding agency as evidence of progress in his foreign university laboratory.

Consequence When the American medical school learned of these previously undisclosed activities, it

- took an employment action and
- refunded the NIH >\$1 million for duplicative funding

x Case Study #2 Conflict of interest

- o NIH-funded scientist is employed by an American medical school on a 12 month schedule.
- o He owns majority equity interest in a foreign company worth \$20 million. The company is receiving patents and selling products derived from his American NIH-funded research.
- o The American medical school is unaware of the scientist's ownership in the foreign company.
- o On annual internal disclosure form, the scientist makes a false statement.
- o On NIH grants, his institution declares that there are no financial conflicts of interest to disclose or manage.

Consequence When the American medical school learned of these previously undisclosed financial interests, it took an employment action.

x Case Study #3 Dishonesty after the fact

- o NIH-funded scientist is employed by
 - An American medical school on a 12 month schedule and
 - A foreign university on a 12 month schedule
- o The Talents award includes \$1,000,000 start funds followed by \$250,000 of research funds per year, along with laboratory space, equipment, and trained staff. There is also salary of >\$100,000 per year, a housing allowance of \$15,000, and covered travel.
- o The American medical school is unaware of the scientist's foreign Talents contract.
- o NIH learns of the Talents award and asks the American medical school for information to assess possible scientific, budgetary, or commitment over conflicts.
- o The American medical school asks the scientist about these activities, and he categorically denies any foreign employment. He says that the Talents award is for others without his permission.
- o The American medical school discovers
 - Signed Talents application

- Talents shortlisting notification
- Signed Talents contract which includes financial support for research
- Signed foreign university contract
- Funded foreign grants, along with correspondence indicating that the scientist played an active role in writing the proposals
- o When confronted, the scientist could deny any foreign activities other

Consequence: The American medical school took an employment action.

x Case Study #1: Overcommitment and dishonesty after the fact

- o NIH-funded scientist is employed by
 - An American medical school on a 12-month schedule
 - A foreign university on a full contract
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