

Allegations of Scientific Misconduct

Introduction - Scientific misconduct is not new but its modern history is especially instructive for its current practical implications.

I. Modern history

A. Implications for:

1. society - public policy based on science; view of researchers
2. scientific community - researchers trusting each other; credibility of their work
3. whistleblowers - Sprague was senior and established and yet became the victim

II. Evolving definition of scientific misconduct

A. Fabrication, Falsification and Plagiarism (FFP)

1. Both too broad and too narrow
2. Fuzzy areas, eg., pilot studies re falsification; ideas re plagiarism

B. "other serious deviations from accepted practices" (OSD clause)

C. Misappropriation, Interference, Misrepresentation (MIM)

D. Professional societies have and are developing ethical codes and guidelines

III. Procedures regarding allegations

A. Generally institution based rather than society or funder

B. Inquiry

C. Investigation

IV. Can be hazardous to whistleblowers

Selected Bibliography
HST 502
Spring 2002

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