

UT Southwestern Medical Center

Commitment to an Inclusive Academic Culture of Scientific Integrity

June 17, 2019

To the UT Southwestern Community,

We are aware that recent news reports of intellectual property theft and political motives surrounding international cooperation at other academic institutions around the country may have generated anxiety among members of our own research community.

We write to you today to reaffirm our institutional resolve and personal commitment to ensuring that all UT Southwestern researchers, students, faculty, and staff have the opportunity to achieve success in a supportive environment that is based on the highest standards of integrity as an essential component of achieving excellence.

A diversity of cultures and perspectives, such those evolved through international exchanges to which UT Southwestern is firmly committed, is fundamental to achieving scientific success and to ensuring that advancements in biomedical research and medicine benefit everyone.

UT Southwestern remains an institution with one standard of expectation, without any selective considerations of race, ethnicity, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, or national origin.

To uphold the trust and confidence demanded in academics, we are firmly committed to taking any kind of scientific misconduct or breeches of integrity very seriously. This includes protection of intellectual property and proper respect for confidentiality when appropriate. But these incidents should not be permitted to erode the atmosphere of trust also needed for science to advance.

Rather, we should each strengthen our individual resolve to ensure that we precisely adhere to protocols that establish the trusted environment we all value. We must equally ensure an inviting atmosphere where opinions, ideas, and critiques can be shared, while treating all with respect, compassion, and dignity.

Among the distinguishing hallmarks of our academic medical center is a collaborative and inviting atmosphere that has allowed UT Southwestern scientists to achieve meaningful innovation and discovery. It is imperative that we pursue our mission for scientific discovery with absolute rigor and strict adherence to best practices, so that our peers here and our scientific partners globally can

confidently rely upon our findings. It is equally incumbent upon each of us to ensure an inclusive academic culture where important ideas can be exchanged, explored, and honestly evaluated.

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