

Dear Campus Community,

After an internal investigation, we have concluded that a scientist formerly employed by the University of Kentucky is responsible for research misconduct.

We are communicating about this issue to the entire campus to underscore our commitment to ethical research practices and conduct. Research is core to who we are as an institution that was created to serve the Commonwealth. We must meet that commitment and when we don't, we must transparently act to address it.

As a result of this incident and investigation, UK will be notifying five journals of publications that need to be corrected or retracted. You can read more about the review and steps we have taken [here](#). The following are the details of what happened and how we are moving forward:

- In April 2019, UK was alerted to the potential of research misconduct from a source outside the University. After assessing the allegations, an internal investigation committee was empaneled by the University. That investigation concluded in April 2020.
- The scientist responsible for the research misconduct in this investigation, Stuart Jarrett, Ph.D., was an assistant professor and a senior research associate in the Markey Cancer Center in the laboratory of Dr. John D'Orazio. Jarrett left the University Sept. 13, 2019, during the investigation.
- Although he did not collect the data that was investigated, Dr. D'Orazio, a physician-scientist and chief of pediatric hematology and oncology, had oversight of the laboratory and the questioned data were included in papers co-authored by Jarrett, D'Orazio and others. The investigation team cited a lack of oversight by D'Orazio but concluded that the issue did not rise to the level of research misconduct on his part.
- Journals will be notified for correction or retraction of publications that contained falsified or fabricated data. All co-authors of the publications will be notified of the corrections and retractions and the issues identified in the committee's report. Moreover, the Federal Office of Research Integrity has been notified of the committee findings.
- D'Orazio and all lab team members (including faculty, staff, students, postdoctoral fellows) will undergo training specific to issues of responsible research conduct. They will also take additional training this year from the Good Research Practices Resource Center. More information regarding the training can be found on the UK Responsible Conduct of Research website: <https://www.research.uky.edu/responsible-conduct-research>. Members of the lab will also be required to utilize cloud-based electronic lab notebooks (LabArchives) to record all research activity and store all research data going forward. Over the next year, UK will explore the utility of all labs conducting sponsored research moving toward mandatory use of electronic lab notebooks.
- An internal panel has been appointed to assure adherence to the above described actions.

In addition to these actions specific to this investigation, the University has instituted several measures to promote the responsible conduct of research, including required online and in person training for all research personnel, access to the electronic LabArchives system for research data management and retention, and expanded anonymous whistleblower reporting of misconduct.

We are – and must be – committed to research that addresses Kentucky’s most significant challenges – from cancer to heart disease, from opioid use disorder to clean energy from coal. That research must be conducted in the most ethical and responsible manner possible. That is our commitment to the University community and the people of this Commonwealth that we serve.

Lisa Cassis
Vice President for Research

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