

March 9, 2007

Holly Adams
Inspector General
Office of Naval Research
875 N. Randolph Street, Suite 375
Arlington, VA 22203

Dear Ms. Adams,

This letter responds to your March 1, 2007 e-mail message concerning allegations against Purdue University and one of our faculty. I will address your requests for information in the order they appeared in the e-mail message.

1. Your understanding, as stated in your e-mail message dated March 1, 2007, is correct. Purdue University has conducted only **one inquiry into research misconduct allegations associated** with sonofusion research at Purdue. The allegations that were the subject of that inquiry were received in September 2006. They were not associated with **ONR-funded research**. The inquiry into those allegations did not result in an investigation. Prior to receipt of your recent correspondence dated February 28, 2007, **Purdue University has not received an allegation of research misconduct directed to "ONR sponsored or managed science and technology research,"** and, therefore, has not initiated an inquiry into such allegations.

Accordingly, Purdue University denies that it failed to fulfill contractual obligations by administratively mishandling allegations of research misconduct concerning our ONR-funded project. Specifically, Purdue University did not fail to report to ONR the results of preliminary and/or investigative inquiries into scientific misconduct allegations associated with an ONR-funded grant, nor did Purdue University falsify identity of funding sources to avoid following Federal-grant contractual regulations.

Further, Purdue University denies the allegations disclosed in your February 28, 2007 letter that Purdue (i) wrongly altered and/or destroyed "bubble fusion" funding documentation, (ii) wrongfully and purposefully narrowly focused misconduct charges against our Principal Investigator, Prof. Taleyarkhan, in order to avoid the question of whether federally funded "bubble fusion" research was "doctored," (iii) wrongly and purposefully conducted a second "preliminary

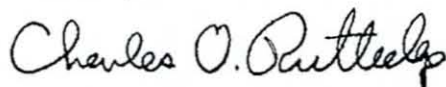
Holly Adams
March 9, 2007
Page Two

inquiry” vice conducting an “investigation” into misconduct allegations to avoid following our own reporting policy, or (iv) wrongfully altered and/or destroyed documentation containing previously expressed allegations of scientific research misconduct involving Prof. Taleyarkhan and the federally-funded “bubble fusion” project.

2. The allegations that were the subject of this inquiry were directed at research first reported in a publication accepted by a journal on 7 February 2005. As you have noted, ONR’s “bubble fusion” grant was in effect from March 2005 through February 2007. Accordingly, ONR grant funds were not used for the research that was the subject of the above referenced allegations.
3. Purdue concurs with your statement and will await the anticipated information.
4. Purdue concurs with your statement and will await the anticipated information.
5. The ONR IG has requested receipt of a copy of Purdue University’s recently completed report of inquiry concerning alleged research misconduct. Upon the advice of counsel, we must respectfully decline this request. Two obstacles to satisfying your request have come to my attention. First, Purdue University’s Executive Memorandum C-22, which governs the inquiry in question, requires that the report remain confidential. For your reference, the C-22 policy is available on Purdue’s website. Second, as your March 1 e-mail message acknowledges and as indicated above, the research that was the subject of allegations and inquiry did not occur under ONR funding. These factors leave me no discretion to release a copy of the report to you at this juncture.

Purdue University shares with the ONR IG a commitment to ensure integrity in research. Purdue University has and will continue to address allegations of research misconduct as specified by our policy and any applicable federal regulations.

Sincerely,



Charles O. Rutledge, Ph.D.
Vice President for Research