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RRC In This Month's E-News: February 2019

By Theresa Defino

◆ In a response to questions from Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, related to concerns about foreign influence in U.S. research, particularly among peer reviewers, NIH said it was unable to provide a list of individuals who have been placed on a "do not use" list. Doing so "could be misleading and/or misinterpreted, especially since the status could change, i.e., placement on the list does not necessarily indicate a ban on performing peer reviews," according to the letter to Grassley signed by Larry Tabak, principal deputy director, on behalf of NIH Director Francis Collins. Grassley made the request to Collins in October (RRC 10/25/18). The letter also told Grassley that NIH could not comply with his request for "a list of all entities currently under investigation for employing individuals that failed to disclose contributions from foreign governments." (1/17/19)

◆ In its first misconduct finding of 2019, the HHS Office of Research Integrity (ORI) said Srikanth Santhanam, a former staff scientist at Washington University in St. Louis (WUSTL), admitted to falsifying a dozen or more uses of data included in an unpublished manuscript concerning NIH-funded research and a revision of the paper. ORI said Santhanam "intentionally, knowingly, and/or recklessly falsely labeled figures" in the manuscript he hoped to publish in *Cancer Research*. (1/17/19)

◆ After more than 20 years serving in various capacities, including president beginning in 2005, Tony DeCrappeo has retired from the Council on Governmental Relations (COGR), an association of research organizations and affiliated medical centers. "From a COGR staff perspective, [DeCrappeo] has provided wise counsel and guidance throughout his term as president of COGR. The recognition and respect that COGR receives among the higher education associations in Washington is due in no small part to Tony's influence and leadership," the association said in its December update. "While we are looking forward to Wendy Streitz serving as our president, we will miss Tony both as a friend and mentor." Streitz, whose first day at COGR's helm was Jan. 7, was the executive director of research policy analysis and coordination in the Office of the President for the University of California system. (1/17/19)

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