DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF NAVAL RESEARCH
875 NORTH RANDOLPH STREET
SUITE 1425
ARLINGTON VA 22203-1995

IN REPLY REFER TO:

SENT VIA E-MAIL

May 30, 2008

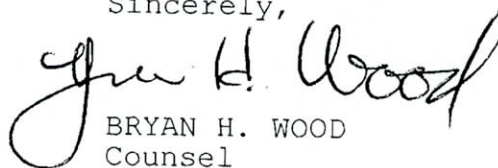MEMORANDUM FOR LEFTERI H. TSOUKALAS, PhD

Subj: Review of Allegations of Scientific Misconduct at Purdue

Dear Dr. Tsoukalas:

I am the legal counsel for the Office of Naval Research (ONR) and have been asked to respond to your several e-mails to Ms. Holly Adams, the ONR Inspector General. In short, these e-mails: (1) seek legal support in defense of the state court action filed by Dr. Taleyarkhan against you; and (2) provide information on alleged reprisal against you and others for your part in this issue. Initially, ONR's role as the federal agency grantor in this matter is limited to reviewing and determining whether scientific misconduct has been conducted pursuant to DoD Instruction 3210.7 and ONR's implementing procedures. In cases where scientific misconduct is confirmed, ONR's remedies (excluding any criminal investigation/sanctions) are limited to administrative actions against the institution or the individual ranging from a letter of reprimand to restrictions on grants to debarment of the individual or the institution. The agency has no authority to investigate, review or draw conclusions on any allegations of personal reprisal committed against the complainant by the institution or the individual against whom the scientific misconduct has been alleged. To that end, there is neither statutory nor regulatory authority for the agency to provide legal representation to the complainant(s) for purposes of either this misconduct review or for independent legal action taken against you by the allegedly offending individual.

There is no authority for this office to provide you with legal representation in this matter, nor can we advise as to whether you are entitled to any type of whistleblower/reprisal protection for your actions heretofore conducted. I recommend you consult your private counsel on this matter.

Sincerely,

BRYAN H. WOOD
Counsel