



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL  
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4 May 2009

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
SUSPENDING AND DEBARRING OFFICIAL

Subj: DEBARMENT OF RUSI TALEYARKHAN

BACKGROUND

On 1 March 2005, the Office of Naval Research (ONR) awarded a grant to the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) to attempt to duplicate Dr. Taleyarkhan's finding of sonofusion, a so called "mirror" experiment. Success of this project required Dr. Taleyarkhan's participation; therefore, UCLA executed a sub-grant to Purdue to support this cooperation. The "mirror" experiment that was conducted by UCLA could not duplicate or confirm Dr. Taleyarkhan's initial sonofusion findings.

The results of the "mirror" experiment, and other allegations of research fraud, led to an internal investigation by Purdue. Results of that investigation substantiated two instances of scientific research misconduct by Dr. Taleyarkhan. ONR's Science and Technology Integrity Board (STIB) evaluated Purdue's investigative findings and concluded that while Purdue's investigative process was transparent, it appeared to have no affect on Dr. Taleyarkhan's professorship. The STIB further recommended that Dr. Taleyarkan misconduct was so severe as to merit debarment.

By letter dated 3 February 2009, you notified Dr. Taleyarkhan of his proposed debarment and offered him an opportunity to submit matters in opposition within thirty calendar days of receipt of that letter. Subsequently, Dr. Taleyarkhan made an oral presentation and was granted an extension until 13 April 2009 to submit supplemental information.

INFORMATION IN THE RECORD

In March 2002, a group of scientists led by Dr. Rusi P. Taleyarkhan, then a senior scientist at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), published a paper in a scientific journal about a table-top experiment that created nuclear fusion. The process, called bubble fusion or sonofusion, bombards a solvent with powerful sound waves causing