

**From:** Trott, Kory <[ktrott@vt.edu](mailto:ktrott@vt.edu)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 13, 2019 1:01 PM  
**To:** Edwards, Marc <[edwardsm@vt.edu](mailto:edwardsm@vt.edu)>  
**Cc:** Pruden-Bagchi, Amy <[apruden@vt.edu](mailto:apruden@vt.edu)>  
**Subject:** RE: IRB and Ethics Complaint.

Hello Marc,

While I understand your desire to review the complaint, protecting the identity of the complainant is also an important part of the process. Therefore we typically do not share the complaint. I've provided Dr. Widdowson with a copy of the Decision Memo. I believe Dr. Widdowson shared the Decision Memo with you, but I've attached it to this email for your convince. The Decision Memo does not identify the complainant but it does provide a summary of the complaint, as well as a description of the assessment. I'm happy to discuss the complaint, my assessment, and the findings of my assessment with you.

Kind regards,

Kory

**Kory Trott, JD, MPH**

Director of Research Integrity and Consultation

Scholarly Integrity & Research Compliance

Virginia Tech

North End Center

300 Turner St NW, Suite 4404

Blacksburg VA 24061

540.231.3798

[KTrott@vt.edu](mailto:KTrott@vt.edu)

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**From:** [edwardsm@vt.edu](mailto:edwardsm@vt.edu) <[edwardsm@vt.edu](mailto:edwardsm@vt.edu)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 13, 2019 12:07 PM  
**To:** Trott, Kory <[ktrott@vt.edu](mailto:ktrott@vt.edu)>  
**Cc:** Pruden-Bagchi, Amy <[apruden@vt.edu](mailto:apruden@vt.edu)>  
**Subject:** RE: IRB and Ethics Complaint.

Can we obtain a copy of the complaint with the name redacted?

I heard that a complaint was filed by Zervos, from someone outside of VT, so whether it was him or not, if whoever made the allegation has their name redacted, that would no be inconsistent with University policies.

Don't we have a right to know what we are being accused of?

Marc

**From:** Trott, Kory <[ktrott@vt.edu](mailto:ktrott@vt.edu)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 13, 2019 11:22 AM  
**To:** Edwards, Marc <[edwardsm@vt.edu](mailto:edwardsm@vt.edu)>  
**Subject:** RE: IRB and Ethics Complaint.

Hello Dr. Edwards,

Thank you for your question. Per the university's *Policy on Misconduct in Research* we are required to limit disclosure of identities and information regarding misconduct allegations. With that in mind, I cannot share the complaint with you because the complaint identifies the complainant. I'd be happy to discuss this with you either in person or over the phone. I can be reached at 1-3798.

Thank you once again,

Kory

**Kory Trott, JD, MPH**

Director of Research Integrity and Consultation

Scholarly Integrity & Research Compliance

Virginia Tech

North End Center

300 Turner St NW, Suite 4404

Blacksburg VA 24061

540.231.3798

[KTrott@vt.edu](mailto:KTrott@vt.edu)

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**From:** [edwardsm@vt.edu](mailto:edwardsm@vt.edu) <[edwardsm@vt.edu](mailto:edwardsm@vt.edu)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 13, 2019 11:02 AM

**To:** Trott, Kory <[ktrott@vt.edu](mailto:ktrott@vt.edu)>

**Cc:** Pruden-Bagchi, Amy <[apruden@vt.edu](mailto:apruden@vt.edu)>; Roy, Siddhartha <[sidroy@vt.edu](mailto:sidroy@vt.edu)>; 'Prof. Susan Masten' <[masten@egr.msu.edu](mailto:masten@egr.msu.edu)>

**Subject:** IRB and Ethics Complaint.

Hi Kory,

A few weeks ago Dr. Masten, Pruden, Roy and I submitted questions to Henry Ford Medical System (HFMS) about IRB related to a 250 word paper, that reported results of an experiment in Flint that resulted in the deaths of 5/10 patients. We have submitted many questions to Dr. Marcus Zervos about this paper, which we consider alarmist, and further questioning how such a study could receive IRB approval. This is a blog we wrote on that paper.

<http://flintwaterstudy.org/2019/09/flint-water-ijid-frontline/>

This is our 9/17/2019 letter to HFMS IRB.

<http://flintwaterstudy.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/IRB-Final.pdf>

It is my understanding that allegations were made about our work by Dr. Zervos. If so, can we be given a copy of those allegations, in order to evaluate the merits of his arguments questioning the ethics of our work?

Best Regards,

Marc