

Body of email from Dr. Marcus Zervos and Letterhead from an attached letter dated September 18, 2019. The letter from Zervos began: "Unfortunately , I feel compelled to write for two reasons. First continuing defamation of me in addition to other faculty working with me, and second, potential scientific misconduct..." The letter admitted that: "I just learned he <Edwards> contacted our director of research about this project that I was senior author on alleging various inaccurate statements of misconduct including questions about the project IRB. Importantly, Dr. Edwards should look to his own work if he wishes to address issues of scientific misconduct."



HENRY FORD HOSPITAL & MEDICAL CENTER
DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL MEDICINE
Division of Infectious Diseases and Hospital Epidemiology

September 18, 2019

Main Body of Email Follows:

I am writing out of concern for potential scientific misconduct of Dr Marc Edwards and Dr Amy Pruden of Virginia Tech University. A search of their grants with NSF for which I have concern are grants 1556258, 1855567 and 1706733.

Manuscripts related to the work of funded by 1556258 in particular are attached, however there are other funding sources in addition to NSF. My concern is that there is no mention of IRB approval in the papers cited. There was water sampling done in homes, and other buildings including hospitals. The papers include isolates from humans [and lead testing results from a person](#). Because the findings of the studies have important implications for humans, protections for human subjects are needed. Specifically was [the study presented to IRB and considered to be exempt](#), consent obtained to collect samples, how are persons residing in homes deidentified, or isolates from humans deidentified, how are results communicated to residents of homes and buildings. This has particularly pressing concern for the hospital studies, or isolates collected from hospitalized patients. It is unclear whether the hospital was even informed Dr Edwards team was doing sampling. I would greatly appreciate you looking into this work. Hopefully IRB was obtained and just not cited on their papers. Please contact me if further information is needed, or if there is another office to have this matter investigated for potential scientific misconduct. I became aware of this work though my work in Flint Michigan.

Marcus Zervos, MD

Assistant Dean, Global Affairs
Professor of Medicine
Wayne State University School of Medicine
Division Head, Infectious Diseases
Henry Ford Health System