

information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

Approved: October 30, 2023.

**Jon R. Callahan,**

Senior Tax Analyst.

[FR Doc. 2023-24266 Filed 11-2-23; 8:45 am]

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## UNIFIED CARRIER REGISTRATION PLAN

### Sunshine Act Meetings

**TIME AND DATE:** November 9, 2023, 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., Eastern time.

**PLACE:** This meeting will be accessible via conference call and via Zoom Meeting and Screenshare. Any interested person may call (i) 1-929-205-6099 (US Toll) or 1-669-900-6833 (US Toll), Meeting ID: 996 3685 6347, to listen and participate in this meeting. The website to participate via Zoom Meeting and Screenshare is <https://kellen.zoom.us/j/99636856347>.

**STATUS:** This meeting will be open to the public.

**MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:** The Unified Carrier Registration Plan Audit Subcommittee (the "Subcommittee") will continue its work in developing and implementing the Unified Carrier Registration Plan and Agreement. The subject matter of this meeting will include:

#### Proposed Agenda

##### I. Call to Order—UCR Audit Subcommittee Chair

The UCR Audit Subcommittee Chair will welcome attendees, call the meeting to order, call roll for the Audit Subcommittee, confirm whether a quorum is present, and facilitate self-introductions.

##### II. Verification of Publication of Meeting Notice—UCR Executive Director

The UCR Executive Director will verify the publication of the meeting notice on the UCR website and distribution to the UCR contact list via email followed by the subsequent publication of the notice in the **Federal Register**.

##### III. Review and Approval of Subcommittee Agenda and Setting of Ground Rules—UCR Audit Subcommittee Chair

*For Discussion and Possible Subcommittee Action*

The agenda will be reviewed, and the Subcommittee will consider adoption.

#### Ground Rules

Subcommittee action only to be taken in designated areas on the agenda.

##### IV. Review and Approval of Subcommittee Minutes From the August 10, 2023 Meeting—UCR Audit Subcommittee Chair

*For Discussion and Possible Subcommittee Action*

Draft minutes from the August 10, 2023, Subcommittee meeting via teleconference will be reviewed. The Subcommittee will consider action to approve.

##### V. Discuss Options To Replace the Retreat Audit Program With a Program That Relies on the NRS Roadside Inspection Data—UCR Audit Subcommittee Chair, UCR Audit Subcommittee Vice-Chair, DSL Transportation Representative, and Seikosoft Representative

*For Discussion and Possible Subcommittee Action*

The UCR Audit Subcommittee Chair, UCR Audit Subcommittee Vice-Chair, DSL Transportation Representative, and Seikosoft Representative will lead a discussion on options to replace the Retreat Audit Program currently utilized by the States with an automated roadside inspection data driven audit for non-IRP and IRP plated commercial motor vehicles (CMVs) and the motor carriers operating this type of registered equipment. The Subcommittee may take action to recommend to the Board a modification to the current retreat audit program to one that relies on NRS roadside inspection data.

##### VI. Announcement of the Vice-Chair Position for the Audit Subcommittee—UCR Audit Subcommittee Chair and UCR Audit Subcommittee Vice-Chair

*For Discussion and Possible Subcommittee Action*

The UCR Audit Subcommittee Chair and UCR Audit Subcommittee Vice-Chair will announce the Subcommittee member receiving the most votes for the position of Vice-Chair of the Audit Subcommittee and address questions. The Subcommittee may take action to recommend that the UCR Board Chair appoint the Subcommittee member receiving the most votes to the position of Vice-Chair of the Audit Subcommittee.

##### VII. General Discussion on a Policy To Close a Participating and Non-Participating Focused Anomaly Review (FAR)—UCR Audit Subcommittee Chair, UCR Audit Subcommittee Vice-Chair, and DSL Transportation Representative

*For Discussion and Possible Subcommittee Action*

The UCR Audit Subcommittee Chair, UCR Audit Subcommittee Vice-Chair, and DSL Transportation Representative will lead a discussion on required steps to close both participating and non-participating state FARs. The Subcommittee may take action to recommend to the Board a required policy for the closing of FARs from participating and non-participating states.

##### VIII. General Discussion of Hot Shot Auto Transporters and the Negative Impact They Have on the UCR and Safety—UCR Audit Subcommittee Chair, UCR Audit Subcommittee Vice-Chair, and DSL Transportation Representative

The UCR Audit Subcommittee Chair, UCR Audit Subcommittee Vice-Chair, and DSL Transportation Representative will lead a discussion on options to address the potential underpayment of hot shot transporters.

##### IX. 2021 UCR Financial Audit Update—UCR Executive Director and Kellen Representative

The UCR Executive Director and Kellen Representative will provide an update on the 2021 UCR financial audit conducted by Warren Averett.

##### X. Update on the Quarterly Question and Answer Session for State Auditors—UCR Audit Subcommittee Chair, UCR Audit Subcommittee Vice-Chair, and UCR Executive Director

The UCR Audit Subcommittee Chair, UCR Audit Subcommittee Vice-Chair and UCR Executive Director will lead discussion of possible future items for discussion for the quarterly question and answer session for state auditors, and also its overall value and continuation.

##### XI. Other Business—UCR Audit Subcommittee Chair

The UCR Audit Subcommittee Chair will call for any other items Subcommittee members would like to discuss.

##### XII. Adjournment—UCR Audit Subcommittee Chair

The UCR Audit Subcommittee Chair will adjourn the meeting.

The agenda will be available no later than 5:00 p.m. Eastern time, November 1, 2023 at: <https://plan.ucr.gov>.

**CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Elizabeth Leaman, Chair, Unified Carrier Registration Plan Board of Directors, (617) 305-3783, [eleaman@board.ucr.gov](mailto:eleaman@board.ucr.gov).

**Alex B. Leath,**

Chief Legal Officer, Unified Carrier Registration Plan.

[FR Doc. 2023-24454 Filed 11-1-23; 4:15 pm]

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## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Findings of Research Misconduct

**AGENCY:** Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice, pursuant to Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Handbook 1058.02, Research Misconduct, dated February 7, 2014,

paragraph 6.k., that the Department has made findings of research misconduct against Hee-Jeong Im Sampen, Ph.D., a research biologist at the Jesse Brown VA Medical Center (VAMC) in Chicago, Illinois. The findings were upheld on appeal per VHA Handbook 1058.02, paragraph 25, which is the version of the applicable VHA policy that was in effect at the time the research misconduct investigation commenced.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Shara Kabak, Research Misconduct Officer, Office of Research Oversight (10RO), 810 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20420, 202-632-7620 (this is not a toll-free number).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** VA has made final findings of research misconduct against Hee-Jeong Im Sampen, Ph.D. (“Respondent”), a research biologist at the Jesse Brown VAMC in Chicago, Illinois.

Based on the recommended findings of a joint investigation conducted by Rush University and Jesse Brown VAMC, the Department found that the Respondent engaged in research misconduct by intentionally, knowingly and/or recklessly falsifying/fabricating data included in the following three published papers, unpublished manuscript, poster presentation and grant application:

- PKC $\delta$  Null Mutations in a Mouse Model of Osteoarthritis Alter Osteoarthritic Pain Independently of Joint Pathology by Augmenting NGF/TrkA-Induced Axonal Outgrowth. *Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases*. 2016 Dec;75(12):2133–2141. doi: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2015-208444 (hereafter “*Ann Rheum Dis*. 2016”);
- Environmental Disruption of Circadian Rhythm Predisposes Mice to

Osteoarthritis-Like Changes in Knee Joint. *Journal of Cellular Physiology*. 2015 Sep;230(9):2174–2183. doi: 10.1002/jcp.24946 (hereafter “*J Cell Physiol*. 2015a”);

- Development of an Experimental Animal Model for Lower Back Pain by Percutaneous Injury-Induced Lumbar Facet Joint Osteoarthritis. *Journal of Cellular Physiology*. 2015 Nov;230(11):2837–2847. doi: 10.1002/jcp.25015 (hereafter “*J Cell Physiol*. 2015b”);

- “NGF Selective Inhibition Therapy on Facet Joint Pain”—DRAFT manuscript for *Arthritis and Rheumatism* (hereafter “*Arthritis Rheum* manuscript”);

- “Inhibition of Glial NF $\kappa$ B Abolished Pain in a Knee Osteoarthritis Model”—2016 poster for the Osteoarthritis Research Society International (hereafter “OARSI presentation 2016”); and

- VA Biomedical Laboratory Research and Development (BLR&D) Merit Award proposal, I01 BX002647–01, “Osteoarthritis and Knee Joint Pain,” submitted on September 18, 2013 (hereafter “VA Merit Award proposal”).

Specifically, the Department found that the Respondent intentionally, knowingly and/or recklessly committed research misconduct by:

- Fabricating/falsifying images in Figures 1A and 1C, and inflating the “n” (sample size) values in Figures 1B and 1E, of *Ann Rheum Dis*. 2016;
- Fabricating/falsifying images in Figure 4A of *J Cell Physiol*. 2015a;
- Fabricating/falsifying images in Figures 7A and 7B, and inflating the “n” values in Figure 4A, of *J Cell Physiol*. 2015b;

- Fabricating/falsifying an image and inflating the “n” values in Figure 1A of the *Arthritis Rheum* manuscript;

- Fabricating/falsifying data and inflating “n” values in Figures in the OARSI presentation 2016; and

- Fabricating/falsifying images in Figures 1A, 4A, 6, 9, 12, and 17B of the VA Merit Award proposal.

Based on these findings of research misconduct, upheld by the Under Secretary for Health on appeal in a decision dated April 24, 2023, the Department has imposed the following corrective actions:

- (1) Permanent prohibition from conducting VA research;
- (2) Publication of VA’s findings of research misconduct;
- (3) Notification to the relevant Federal funding agencies of the findings;
- (4) Requesting retraction of the affected publications;
- (5) Prohibition from publishing the *Arthritis Rheum* manuscript; and
- (6) Prohibition from re-presenting the content of the OARSI presentation 2016.

#### Signing Authority

Denis McDonough, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, approved and signed this document on October 26, 2023, and authorized the undersigned to sign and submit the document to the Office of the Federal Register for publication electronically as an official document of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

#### Luvenia Potts,

Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy & Management, Office of General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs.

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