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September 18, 2017

James E. Enstrom, Ph.D., M.P.H.
President, Scientific Integrity Institute
907 Westwood Boulevard, Suite 200
Los Angeles, CA 90024
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Dear Dr. Enstrom:

As requested, I am writing to confirm receipt of your email dated September 1, 2017 and the set of almost identical materials delivered to my office earlier this week. You asked me to assess your November 2016 allegations against Michael Jerrett, Professor of Public Health, in order to determine whether your allegations fall within the definition of falsification as stated in UCLA Policy 993: Responding to Allegations of Research Misconduct. These, and similar, allegations have been reviewed previously by the University and, each time, were determined to merit investigation under research misconduct standards.

Most recently, in November 2016, you asked Ann Karagozian, Ph.D., then-Interim Vice Chancellor for Research, to conduct the same review. Dr. Karagozian conducted the review and also conferred with a "scientific expert in the health sciences." Dr. Karagozian advised you that she had concluded that your allegations did not warrant further inquiry.

Prior to that, in 2015, you asked Carole Goldberg, then-Vice Chancellor, Academic Personnel and Acting Research Integrity Officer for the UCLA campus to engage in a similar review. Professor Goldberg wrote to you in April 2015 advising that federal regulations and UCLA Policy 993 define falsification as "manipulating research materials, equipment or processes or changing or omitting data or results such that the research is not accurately represented in the research record."

Similar allegations were submitted to Mark Yudof, then-President of the University of California, in 2010 by Norman and Lee Brown. The matter was referred to the Research Integrity Officer at the UC Berkeley campus where Dr. Jerrett then held a faculty appointment. After review, the Berkeley Research Integrity Officer, then-Associate Vice Chancellor for Research, Robert Price, explained that the charges did not conform to a standard interpretation of falsification, and that the research record to which the regulations refer are the record of the investigator's own research activities. He also advised that "...a researcher is under no obligation ethical or otherwise, to reference or acknowledge every study conducted on a topic similar to theirs." Vice Chancellor Goldberg indicated that she agreed with Associate Vice Chancellor Price's interpretation of the regulations, as do I.

The issues raised in your letter and supporting documents have previously been given consideration. All previous reviews have resulted in consistent conclusions. I therefore decline your request. I consider this matter closed.

Sincerely,

Roger M. Wakimoto

Roger M. Wakimoto
Vice Chancellor for Research

cc: Assistant Vice Chancellor Ann Pollack
Sr. Counsel Steven Drown