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ORI Makes Misconduct Finding Against Former NYU Psychiatry Professor

Without admitting wrongdoing, Dr. Alexander Neumeister, *previously a professor of psychiatry and radiology at New York University School of Medicine*, accepted a two-year governmentwide debarment for “knowingly, and/or recklessly falsifying and/or fabricating data in the clinical records of research” funded by a half-dozen National Institute of Mental Health grants, the HHS Office of Research Integrity (ORI) announced in the Jan. 7 *Federal Register*. The misconduct resulted in “inclusion of falsified and/or fabricated research methods and results” in four publications appearing in 2013 and 2014, ORI said in a rare finding that applies to misconduct in a clinical trial, rather than in basic research.

ORI said Neumeister, whose research included studying the use of opioids and cannabis-like drugs for anorexia, depression and post-traumatic stress disorder, enrolled subjects in “experimental and control groups who did not meet the criteria for entry...rendering the data and/or published results invalid” in the papers, which he agreed to retract or correct. Following the two-year debarment period, which began Dec. 13, 2019, Neumeister also agreed to have his research supervised for two years should he be involved in Public Health Service-funded studies. Neumeister, who previously pleaded guilty to embezzlement related to personal use of research funds, told *Medscape* what ORI called examples of misconduct were “unintentional...regulatory issues.” In an interview, Neumeister said he “wanted to advance science, and therefore [the finding is] particularly sad and devastating for me personally, because I never intended to do anything wrong or act against any regulations or anything.”

[Link to Federal Register notice](#)

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