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(PHOTO) ORI

## Top U.S. Scientific Misconduct Official Quits in Frustration With Bureaucracy

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By [Jocelyn Kaiser \(/author/jocelyn-kaiser\)](#) | 12 March 2014 5:15 pm | [175 Comments \(/people-events/2014/03/top-u.s.-scientific-misconduct-official-quits-frustration-bureaucracy#disqus\\_thread\)](#)

The director of the U.S. government office that monitors scientific misconduct in biomedical research has resigned after 2 years out of frustration with the “remarkably dysfunctional” federal bureaucracy. David Wright, director of the [Office of Research Integrity \(ORI\)](http://ori.hhs.gov/), writes in a scathing resignation letter obtained by *ScienceInsider* that the huge amount of time he spent trying to get things done made much of his time at ORI “the very worst job I have ever had.”

ORI, which is part of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), monitors alleged research misconduct by researchers funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and other Public Health Service (PHS) agencies. It runs education programs and reviews institutions’ misconduct investigations, each

year posting a dozen or so findings of misconduct, defined as fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism. It also recommends PHS sanctions, such as barring researchers from receiving grants. ORI's visibility has grown recently along with a rise in retracted research papers, some involving misconduct.

Observers [lauded Wright's appointment in December 2011](#)

(<http://news.sciencemag.org/2011/12/new-chief-hhss-research-misconduct-office>), which ended 2 years in which the office had no permanent director.

Wright, a historian of science at Michigan State University in East Lansing, had served as an ORI consultant and came in with plans to beef up training programs. But on 25 February, he fired off a fiery resignation letter to his boss (see below), HHS Assistant Secretary for Health (ASH) Howard Koh. (Wright's departure has not been formally announced by HHS and was first made public last week [by the blog Retraction Watch](#) (<http://retractionwatch.com/2014/03/07/office-of-research-integrity-ori-head-david-wright-leaves-agency/>). HHS spokeswoman Diane Gianelli declined to comment on why Wright left but confirmed his resignation and said that Don Wright, an Office of ASH (OASH) official who is unrelated to David Wright and had previously served as acting director, will resume that position.)

In his letter, David Wright writes that working with ORI's "remarkable scientist-investigators" was "the best job I've ever had." But that was only 35% of his job; the rest of the time he spent "navigating the remarkably dysfunctional HHS bureaucracy" to run ORI. Tasks that took a couple of days as a university administrator required weeks or months, he says. He writes that ORI's budget was micromanaged by more senior officials, and that Koh's office had a "seriously flawed" culture, calling it "secretive, autocratic and unaccountable." For example, he told Wanda Jones, Koh's deputy, that he urgently needed to appoint a director for ORI's division of education. Jones told him the position was somewhere on a secret priority list of appointments. The position has not been filled 16 months later, David Wright notes.

OASH itself suffers from the tendency of bureaucracies to "focus ... on perpetuating themselves," David Wright writes. Officials spent "exorbitant amounts of time" in meetings and generating data and reports to make their divisions look productive, he writes. He asks whether OASH is the proper home

for a regulatory office such as ORI, noting that Koh himself has described his office as an “intensely political environment.”

David Wright makes no mention of a recent [letter](http://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/upload/2014-02-10-CEG-to-ORI-HHS-ISU-2.pdf) (<http://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/upload/2014-02-10-CEG-to-ORI-HHS-ISU-2.pdf>) to ORI from Senator Charles “Chuck” Grassley (R-IA), who has complained that ORI was not tough enough on an AIDS researcher at Iowa State University who faked data to obtain nearly \$19 million in NIH funding. ORI barred the researcher, Dong-Pyou Han, from participating in PHS-funded research for 3 years, but Grassley has asked why ORI did not make him return federal grant money or impose harsher sanctions ([more at Retraction Watch](http://retractionwatch.com/2014/03/11/senator-unsatisfied-with-oris-response-on-recovery-of-tainted-grant-money/) (<http://retractionwatch.com/2014/03/11/senator-unsatisfied-with-oris-response-on-recovery-of-tainted-grant-money/>)).

David Wright declined to be interviewed by *ScienceInsider* at this time. His letter indicates that he remains a federal employee until he finishes using leave time by 27 March. After that, he writes, he plans to publish a version of his daily log at ORI to share more of his experiences.

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, research misconduct expert Nicholas Steneck tells *ScienceInsider* he hopes there won't be another long delay before a new ORI director is appointed. “It's a very important position. ORI needs a permanent director to operate effectively,” he says.

Here is the text of David Wright's letter, provided to *ScienceInsider* by an anonymous source:

2/25

Dr. Howard Koh, M.D.

Assistant Secretary for Health

Dear Howard:

I am writing to resign my position as Director, Office of Research Integrity, ORI/OASH/DHHS

This has been at once the best and worst job I've ever had. The

best part of it has been the opportunity to lead ORI intellectually and professionally in helping research institutions better handle allegations of research misconduct, provide in-service training for institutional Research Integrity Officers (RIOs), and develop programming to promote the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR). Working with members of the research community, particularly RIOs, and the brilliant scientist-investigators in ORI has been one of the great pleasures of my long career. Unfortunately, and to my great surprise, it turned out to be only about 35% of the job.

The rest of my role as ORI Director has been the very worst job I have ever had and it occupies up to 65% of my time. That part of the job is spent navigating the remarkably dysfunctional HHS bureaucracy to secure resources and, yes, get permission for ORI to serve the research community. I knew coming into this job about the bureaucratic limitations of the federal government, but I had no idea how stifling it would be. What I was able to do in a day or two as an academic administrator takes weeks or months in the federal government, our precinct of which is OASH.

I believe there are a number of reasons for this. First, whereas in most organizations the front-line agencies that do the actual work, in our case protecting the integrity of millions of dollars of PHS-funded research, command the administrative support services to get the job done. In OASH it's the exact opposite. The Op-Divs, as the front-line offices are called, get our budgets and then have to go hat-in-hand to the administrative support people in the "immediate office" of OASH to spend it, almost item by item. These people who are generally poorly informed about what ORI is and does decide whether our requests are "mission critical."

On one occasion, I was invited to give a talk on research integrity and misconduct to a large group of AAAS fellows. I needed to spend \$35 to convert some old cassette tapes to CDs for use in the presentation. The immediate office denied my request after a couple of days of noodling. A university did the conversion for me in twenty

minutes, and refused payment when I told them it was for an educational purpose.

Second, the organizational culture of OASH's immediate office is seriously flawed, in my opinion. The academic literature over the last twenty-five years on successful organizations highlights several characteristics: transparency, power-sharing or shared decision-making and accountability. If you invert these principles, you have an organization (OASH in this instance), which is secretive, autocratic and unaccountable.

In one instance, by way of illustration, I urgently needed to fill a vacancy for an ORI division director. I asked the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health (your deputy) when I could proceed. She said there was a priority list. I asked where ORI's request was on that list. She said the list was secret and that we weren't on the top, but we weren't on the bottom either. Sixteen months later we still don't have a division director on board.

On another occasion I asked your deputy why you didn't conduct an evaluation by the Op-Divs of the immediate office administrative services to try to improve them. She responded that that had been tried a few years ago and the results were so negative that no further evaluations have been conducted.

Third, there is the nature of the federal bureaucracy itself. The sociologist Max Weber observed in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century that while bureaucracy is in some instances an optimal organizational mode for a rationalized, industrial society, it has drawbacks. One is that public bureaucracies quit being about serving the public and focus instead on perpetuating themselves. This is exactly my experience with OASH. We spend exorbitant amounts of time in meetings and in generating repetitive and often meaningless data and reports to make our precinct of the bureaucracy look productive. None of this renders the slightest bit of assistance to ORI in handling allegations of misconduct or in promoting the responsible conduct of research. Instead, it sucks away time and resources that we might

better use to meet our mission. Since I've been here I've been advised by my superiors that I had "to make my bosses look good." I've been admonished: "Dave, you are a visionary leader but what we need here are team players." Recently, I was advised that if I wanted to be happy in government service, I had to "lower my expectations." The one thing no one in OASH leadership has said to me in two years is 'how can we help ORI better serve the research community?' Not once.

Finally, there is another important organizational question that deserves mention: Is OASH the proper home for a regulatory agency such as ORI? OASH is a collection of important public health offices that have agendas significantly different from the regulatory roles of ORI and OHRP. You've observed that OASH operates in an "intensely political environment." I agree and have observed that in this environment decisions are often made on the basis of political expediency and to obtain favorable "optics." There is often a lack of procedural rigor in this environment. I discovered recently, for example, that OASH operates a grievance procedure for employees that has no due process protections of any kind for respondents to those grievances. Indeed, there are no written rules or procedures for the OASH grievance process regarding the rights and responsibilities of respondents. By contrast, agencies such as ORI are bound by regulation to make principled decisions on the basis of clearly articulated procedures that protect the rights of all involved. Our decisions must be supported by the weight of factual evidence. ORI's decisions may be and frequently are tested in court. There are members of the press and the research community who don't believe ORI belongs in an agency such as OASH and I, reluctantly, have come to agree.

In closing, these twenty-six months of service as the Director of ORI have been a remarkable experience. As I wrote earlier in this letter, working with the research community and the remarkable scientist-investigators at ORI has been the best job I've ever had. As for the rest, I'm offended as an American taxpayer that the federal

bureaucracy—at least the part I’ve labored in—is so profoundly dysfunctional. I’m hardly the first person to have made that discovery, but I’m saddened by the fact that there is so little discussion, much less outrage, regarding the problem. To promote healthy and productive discussion, I intend to publish a version of the daily log I’ve kept as ORI Director in order to share my experience and observations with my colleagues in government and with members of the regulated research community.

I plan to work through Tuesday March 4, 2014 and then use vacation or sick days until Thursday March 27 (by which time I will have re-established health care through my university) and then end my federal government service.

Sincerely,

Posted in [People & Events \(/category/people-events/\)](/category/people-events/), [Scientific Community \(/category/scientific-community/\)](/category/scientific-community/).

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**freakydeaky** · 5 days ago

Oh, I thought they were talking about the VA.....

^ | ▾ · Reply · Share ›



**Oliver\_K\_Manuel** · 6 months ago

Regretfully, Climatedge only exposed the tip of a very deep, iceberg of deceit that grew out of public view in the lush funds of federal research agencies.

Mv biography contains. for example. nine pages of precise experimental data that FALSIFY

...my methodology, estimates, etc. examples, and a page or two of previous experimental work with ... standard models of stars and nuclei, but leaders of the scientific community have all declined invitations to address the data in public.

With deep regrets,

- Oliver K. Manuel

Former NASA Principal

Investigator for Apollo

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Tired · 6 months ago

Corruption in the Federal Government cannot be blamed on one specific political party. I worked for OASH years ago, and the same people who are steering the boat in the Bush Administration are the same people who are steering the boat in the Obama Administration - Secretary Sebelius (and any other elected HHS Secretary) is just a face behind the real people who are running HHS. Corruption is everywhere, and it's time for the people to take their Government back. There is one office under OASH that has approximately fourteen GS-14s sitting around answering emails. My, My, My how many deputies do a sherriff need. OASH Executives encourage their Managers to lie on documentation to justify higher pay for their friends, families and whoever they feel should fit their hierarchy mold, and two of the OASH Executives who are still there were under the Bush Administration. EEO Complaints and Grievances are nothing but scams and people need to realize who is behind the two sources that suppose to get people justice. The NTEU (Union) President, Colleen Kelly, makes over 200k a year (I've been told or near 200k) - how disgusting - but people still fall for the scam - and pay their Union dues. Also, unless you have about 30k to pay a lawyer - don't even think about putting in an EEO Complaint. The system is rigged, the people who needs a lawyer can't afford a lawyer - but people like the corrupt OASH Executives have a fleet of lawyers to represent them called the HHS Office of General Counsel. Where are the organizations like The Government Accountability Office who are suppose to be on watch to make sure our tax money is not supporting undeserving over inflated paychecks and greedy lavish habits! I still have friends who work there, and according to them - things have gotten worst. I've worked both private industry and Federal Government and I was just as disgusted as Mr. Wright to see how our tax money is spent

8 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Jessie → Tired · 6 months ago

Holmberg? Is that you? I heard you were bitter about how Dr. Koh put you out (I was just across the hall).

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**garyandrews "NoGodsBeforeMe"** · 7 months ago

from his letter, seems wright just wants to spend tax dollars with no oversight. anyone who





thinks that's ok is part of the problem

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**xmarkwe** → garyandrews "NoGodsBeforeMe" · 6 months ago

You didn't read that article in very much detail, did you?

I suspect garyandrews is himself deeply entrenched in the bureaucratic mire and is very happy to be part of the problem.

3 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Zoltan Sandor** · 7 months ago

Die Ohnmacht der Allmächtigen. The humanity will die out within 250 years. Entropy & sodium intakes. Five decades global censorship, corruption, pseudoscience and lack of science. Excess salt (sodium) intake enhances the Entropy, this is the main risk factor of diabetes 1 & 2, overweight, NCDs, etc., and our devolution is a considerable risk factor too. The law of entropy is the fiercest enemy of life and is our fiercest enemy too. The sodium-chloride isn't food for humans, but is the perfect food of entropy. The spontaneous diffusion of sodium ions into the cells & the diffusion of potassium ions out of the cells, enhances the entropy. And every mmol excess sodium & the wrong Na/K ratio (& other wrong ratios) increases more the entropy in our every cells. The task of the continuously working Na-K pump to keep constant the intracellular concentration of Na & K ions. These cellular pumps continuously use energy of ATP molecules. Some consequences of high sodium intake, the specialists talk about these rarely or never: Higher energy requirements (energy expenditure) for Na-K pump & kidney. All the rest of our vital processes (functional processes of the cells) receive less energy, because the metabolic rate (speed & capacity of enzyme reactions, oxygen supply, etc.) is limited (note: Kleiber's Law). And the excess sodium intake do not increase the oxidative pathway. But, a critical surplus switches the anaerobic glycolysis on, in our every cells. This can be named: Sodium-Induced Cellular Anaerobic Glycolysis (SICAG). We produce cytotoxic lactic acid in our cells. Consequently, all of our vital processes &

[see more](#)

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Quek** · 7 months ago

I can't wait for the bureaucrats we will see in obamacare.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Shhhhh.** · 7 months ago

Google "Jesse Ventura Conspiracy Theory" - segment called "Manimals" (YouTube) they approved funding for this research institution to conduct research after the segment aired. No reputable investigation was conducted which is a conspiracy within itself and funding was approved and released from NIH. OASH Executives were informed and did nothing. It is

approved and released from him. OASH Executives were informed and did nothing. It is about time people are speaking out. OASH being dysfunctional is an understatement - corrupt is more like it. This is not a political matter - OASH keeps secrets from the HHS Secretary.

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Frustrated** · 7 months ago

Starting with David Wright there are a lot more out there that can and will support him. This man is keeping it real. It is a fact these things have been going on now for several years but has escalated to an all time high in the federal government and should be investigated. Only those who work on the inside know these things. There is a large number of grievances and EEO complaints. There is a secret and conspiracy among management only and the layers that are involved that goes to the top in OASH. It's not just politics but illegal mismanagement of funds in budgets involving hard working tax payers money. OASH executives and managers alike has favoritism/personal toward those that go along to get along with non deserving awards and bonuses among management that do not deserve the tax payers money. Some act as though the funds are coming from their own pockets. Holding back employees promotions, downgrading evaluations. While giving out bonuses to upper management.

Hiring of management that has no knowledge of the job that ride off the coat tails of those that are knowledgeable that's under them. They are pushing a lot of LWOP(leave without pay) to employees with medical documentation in place. The work place is hostile and toxic. It is sad to see management go downhill for personal gain. Anybody that don't go along to get along is black balled, transferred, demoted, forced to retired, forced to step down. Employees doing several jobs at the same pay with no upgrade or promotion this is government wide. There are a lot of hard working federal government employees who are dedicate to their work and dedicated to the well being of the American people who we represent. Its about time that the truth is being reveal. I challenge the investigators to investigate the TRUTH and return JUSTICE back to the American People. Clean up starting with the Top in Management!

6 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**jesse** → Frustrated · 7 months ago

As a govt worker for dva what you say happens here too. There needs to be transparency especially w hiring .

5 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**CHEMST** · 7 months ago

And liberals wonders why conservatives don't see government as the solution to our problems.

6 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**cookiebob** · 7 months ago

Makes one sick just to realize that these people think they will be able to control our healthcare completely. Seriously, it makes me ill.

4 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**GaelanClark** · 7 months ago

And you think Obamacare is going to get easier or better?

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**FreedomRings\_CA** · 7 months ago

Absent an inspired and committed-to-eliminate-the-dysfunction leader (and I have doubts even that would work), there is only one solution to the problem of our Federal government's bureaucracies:

destroy them

3 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Genma+Saotome** · 7 months ago

Ahhh... Jim Hacker finds Sir Humphrey and discovers the Bureaucracy expands to meet the needs of the expanding Bureaucracy.

For further examples, watch (or read) \_Yes Minister\_ followed by \_Yes Prime Minister\_.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**GameTime** · 7 months ago

Maybe the GOP has something when they call for eliminating these big bureaucracies. What's new about any federal agency spending money and time on itself instead of what taxpayer's expect it to do.

8 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**B Martin** · 7 months ago

We have been descending into this "government by bureaucrat" system for years. A century of fighting world wars and cold war have stolen our soul. We have voluntarily traded our citizenship in for bureaucratic subjugation. This article is a prime example of our economic, social and moral problems. Under such rule, we can not flourish, we can not learn, we can not grow, we can not achieve the achievable. We have created a system, by the government and for the government. Unless we reverse direction soon, we are destined to be marginalized by ourselves

17 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**tonyscarp** · 7 months ago



When the Civil Service Law was written many years ago, the laudable objective was to remove politics from the bureaucracy and end the deep changes in government departments whenever a new administration took office. However, the law has created a moribund, self-serving bunch of do-nothings designed to perpetuate and grow their organizations and self-importance. When unions were allowed to infect this morass...things got many times worse. This law needs to be rewritten and unions disallowed in the governmental workplaces. Incompetent, non-performing and politically biased individuals need to be able to be promptly and efficiently removed. Most of these politically biased are Democrats as they promote large, all encompassing government and allows them to keep their jobs and expand their fiefdoms. The size of government departments need to be drastically reduced. All of this starts with GOP control of the Congress and Presidency and the complete rewriting of the Civil Service Law to make the federal bureaucracy responsive to the citizens of the US who the government is supposed to serve rather than the perpetuation of a privileged class of mostly over-paid government workers who control the citizenary.

9 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Dracover** · 7 months ago

"Soviet," as in Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, is defined as council or committee. In other words, the USSR was a government by bureaucrats, which explains much about why it was inefficient, incompetent, and corrupt. Inefficiency, incompetence, and corruption killed the Soviet Union and is endangering the USA. The Constitution made the people supreme masters of themselves for better or worse, and now the bureaucrats have taken power to themselves to our detriment. Psychopathy is about control, and the political class is degenerating into a bunch of petty psychopaths.

18 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**B Martin** → Dracover · 7 months ago

Great Post!

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**5JimBob** · 7 months ago

Forget a regulator. How about some prosecutions? If you take a Federal research grant for \$19,000,000 under false pretenses, wouldn't that be fraud? People go to prison for a few thousand dollars in tax fraud. Put some people in jail and/or fine them for six figures and see things improve quickly.

15 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**harleyrider1778** · 7 months ago

There are 4,000-7000 theorized chemicals in tobacco smoke (there are 2,000 in coffee) of which only 65 are vaguely carcinogenic. None exist in any quantity to cause harm. I can only assume some of the people commenting here are displaying symptoms of psychop-

somaticism, it's all the mind or fancy a fat payout from the courts.

In 1991 an experiment was done on side stream smoke (SSS). SSS is undiluted by inhalation via a smoker's lungs where 95% of the chemicals are ingested. The setting was a room 20 feet by 24 feet by 9 feet, sealed and unventilated and the "sniffer" was 6 inches away from the lit cigarette. It produced the following results whereby you would have to be surrounded by the following number of smokers to reach a dangerous level.

Benzene 13,300 smokers.

Polonium 750,000.

Nickel 40,000.

Acetone 178,000

Benzo(a)pyrene 220,000.

So you are telling me smoke travelling 10-20 feet diluted by other air is a health hazard? You remind me of alchemists of the middle ages. Benzene constitutes 3% of a gallon of gas, and is often unburned in a car engine, the by product is benzo(a)pyrene. Your car will kill far more people before a smoker.

<http://www.prevention.ch/20465...>

4 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Jbar** → harleyrider1778 · 7 months ago

Tobacco smoke is obnoxious.

So is the loud noise from bikes and biker bars.

You pretty much don't give a crap what other people want, do you.

3 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**B Martin** → Jbar · 7 months ago

The constitution offers,..life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Not the right not to be offended or uncomfortable..

4 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**manapp99** → Jbar · 7 months ago

How do your "wants" trump Harley's wants?

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**harleyrider1778** → manapp99 · 7 months ago

Simple freedom of choise provides the answer.....

Let the business owner decide.....we go where want to and you can go to your smokefree venue. But hey there wont be any after all the hans nets revealed Big Business will welcome smokers back with open

...and get repeated. Big Business will welcome smokers back with open arms increasing their business by 30% or more once the word gets out they are smoking again!

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**harleyrider1778** · 7 months ago

This pretty well destroys the Myth of second hand smoke:

[http://vitals.nbcnews.com/\\_new...](http://vitals.nbcnews.com/_new...)

Lungs from pack-a-day smokers safe for transplant, study finds.

By JoNel Aleccia, Staff Writer, NBC News.

Using lung transplants from heavy smokers may sound like a cruel joke, but a new study finds that organs taken from people who puffed a pack a day for more than 20 years are likely safe.

What's more, the analysis of lung transplant data from the U.S. between 2005 and 2011 confirms what transplant experts say they already know: For some patients on a crowded organ waiting list, lungs from smokers are better than none.

"I think people are grateful just to have a shot at getting lungs," said Dr. Sharven Taghavi, a cardiovascular surgical resident at Temple University Hospital in Philadelphia, who led the new study.....

[see more](#)

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Jbar** → harleyrider1778 · 7 months ago

Sure, only about 20% of smokers die of lung cancer and it is difficult to get lung donors at all, and the transplant is more likely to fail for other reason. Facing all the odds including death from keeping your own lungs, 80% chance of not getting cancer is a no-brainer.

Nonetheless if you had a choice of picking the lungs of identical twins who both died of an accident, and one was a smoker and one was not, your best choice is the non-smoker's lungs.

Smoke exposure does not necessarily follow a linear dose response, which is the assumption in your calculations, and it may depend as much on the genetics of the victim.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



SO OSHA standards are what is the guideline for what is acceptable "SAFE LEVELS"

OSHA SAFE LEVELS

All this is in a small sealed room 9x20 and must occur in ONE HOUR.

For Benzofalpyrene, 222,000 cigarettes.

---

[see more](#)

1 ^ | v · [Reply](#) · [Share](#) ›



**Joe** · 7 months ago

Observers had said this for years, and now even the insiders are seeing it...

^ | v · [Reply](#) · [Share](#) ›



**Michael J. McFadden** · 7 months ago

Three years ago there were five separate complaints filed by five different organizations about five distinct instances of perceived fraud or misconduct relating to research used to push smoking bans on cities. \*ALL\* of those complaints were submitted in proper formal style, and \*NONE\* of them were ever properly responded to or investigated.

Shows how much "scientific integrity" is valued when it runs up against political lobbying and desires, eh?

Michael J. McFadden

Author of "Dissecting Antismokers' Brains"

5 ^ | v · [Reply](#) · [Share](#) ›



**Phineas Worthington** · 7 months ago

For every one person that speaks up, millions more say nothing to preserve their job and pension.

11 ^ | v · [Reply](#) · [Share](#) ›



**Michael J. McFadden** → [Phineas Worthington](#) · 7 months ago

There's a tenured professor named Jim Enstrom who's taught at the University of California for over 30 years. in 2003 he published a massive research article in the British Medical Journal that was based on years of verifiable public records and which showed clearly that the great bulk of the claims about secondhand smoke's dangers were nothing more than a scam designed to reduce smoking by promoting smoking bans. He then followed that up with another critical piece of research aimed at diesel emissions.

After three decades of service to the University he was summarily fired. The firing was so egregiously out of line with standards that he was able to sue in court and get



so egregiously out of line with standards that he was able to sue in court and get reinstated. The reinstatement is only temporary though: they're STILL trying to fire him for daring to do science instead of politics. Google:

Enstrom "Scientific Integrity Institute"

and read the story on his website.

- MJM

5 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**J. C. Smith** → Phineas Worthington · 7 months ago

Or are co-conspirators with those who drove this good man from office.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**GypsyCowboy** · 7 months ago

As the intellectual Nancy Pelosi stated...."There is no place left to cut".....and sheeple keep voting for these morons. We need a team of business people to go in and clean this federal government up top to bottom.....I wonder how long it took to requisition a roll of toilet paper.....

17 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**harleyrider1778** → GypsyCowboy · 7 months ago

Soon the Morons who voted the democrats in will have to pay for their vote. Nothing is free forever!

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**SClanding** · 7 months ago

Having spent an unfortunate spell of a few years early in my career in consulting work with multiple government agencies, this man's frustration is something with which I can certainly relate.

Thankfully, that short period ended with movement to entirely private sector work and with a well-earned disdain for the leftist big government sugar daddy mentality.

Anyone whom has ever been misfortunate enough to work with these dysfunctional agencies could have told the numbskulls that Obamacare would be a hugely expensive boondoggle. Amazingly for the misinformed who still believe in unicorns and pixie dust, the truly clusterfreaked nature will now only get worst because the true "government drone" have now taken complete control....most likely, as with most government agencies, with rejects from other agencies who could not be fired but were so dense and stupid that they couldn't perform any job in their current office, so they will be packed off to the new project in desperate need of new gubermint bodies....all with salary increases of course.

My favorite unreal experience from that horrid time was watching the yearly agency spending sprees just before budget planning started, you know because no agency wanted to have their budget cut so they would commence with shopping sprees so that they could show that they were underfunded and needed a bigger budget.

21 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Guest · 7 months ago

And this guy came from academia, not exactly a place free of internal politics and oafish administrators.

12 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Marlow · 7 months ago

After announcing his intention to publish his daily log, watch that this guy doesn't end up a "suicide" or a death by "natural causes". There's been a slew of them under this administration. Maybe too low profile for such an action, but if this gets a lot of press, which it probably won't, look for it.

12 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Dennis Ludwig → Marlow · 7 months ago

Good grief!

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



meganeskey · 7 months ago

I completely understand his frustration. He captures the insanity of a broken bureaucracy perfectly, and the extreme costs (and not just \$\$) associated with perpetuating such an antiquated model of management. Here is my #Storify where I have captured many of the same experiences in the words of former, current and prospective NASA employees. I am thrilled and amazed at how many parallels there are with this resignation letter and my Storify story. Great minds think alike!! <http://storify.com/meganesque/...> Pass POWADA and pass it on....

7 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



dj · 7 months ago

Human beings are designed to survive, first and foremost. They are animals, first and foremost. Part of survival is going along with whatever group you've decided will help your survival- ethics and morals and principles and ideals ultimately will take a back seat if your survival is at stake. Also, the larger group you're in, the less personal responsibility you'll take for whatever - it's easier to hide out, and you don't want to stick your neck out. This is why large organizations tend towards corruption - it still comes down to individuals selling out their personal integrity for their survival (real or imagined).

9 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Dennis S Winningstad** · 7 months ago

Gee, do you think the framers knew that a small Fed Gov would be best? Governments are like cancer. They grow and grow and grow with the idea that you spend all you can to get a bigger budget and retirement...and heck, there's plenty more money where those dollars came from...Nancy Pelosi is a GREAT example. She said we don't have a spending problem, we have a revenue problem. Almost all with around 10 years and more in the Beltway are hooked on it. Reelection is MUCH more important than America. To fix America's problems will be political suicide, so no fix will happen. Can you spell, "We're past the tipping point?"

29 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**jonik** → Dennis S Winningstad · 7 months ago

Need to qualify here. What we got now is Corporate-Controlled Government. What we need is PEOPLE-Controlled Government, with private commercial interests excluded by law from wielding economic influence.

5 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Dennis S Winningstad** → jonik · 7 months ago

Right-ON, jonik...Career politicians and crony capitalism is what I call it...

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Jessie** · 7 months ago

I just read where Dr. Howard Koh's Deputy, Dr. Wanda Jones, was given a Presidential Award for outstanding leadership. That she runs a completely dysfunctional shop is just about right for the federal government - no wonder why the entire U.S. population despises the feds - they reward total incompetence, and then delude themselves of their fake competence, because they have a certificate to hang on the wall.

Not to mention Dr. Wanda Jones was given a \$35,000 bonus in 2012, making her salary north of \$210,000.....I didn't now dysfunction was so valuable.

45 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**J. C. Smith** → Jessie · 7 months ago

Leadership for those pinheads equals "making the bosses look good" (in Mr Wright's words), not in doing anything actually useful.

4 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Jay Hanig** → Jessie · 7 months ago

It got our president a Nobel Peace Prize.

26 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

20 2 | > | < | Reply | Share

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