

# HARVARD UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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September 19, 2006

Dr. Albert W. Burgstahler  
The University of Kansas  
1620 Massachusetts Ave.  
Lawrence, KS 66044

Dear Dr. Burgstahler:

I am writing in regard to your letter of September 10.

In your letter, you express concern about specific documents drafted by Dr. Douglass that cited Dr. Bassin's dissertation and did not discuss her findings. The Harvard Medical School's three-member inquiry panel and its Standing Committee on Professional Conduct examined the very materials you discussed in your letter and found that Dr. Douglass had not engaged in an intentional misrepresentation of his graduate student's Ph.D. dissertation. This conclusion was received by the federal Office of Research Integrity, which upheld the determination of the Medical School.

I appreciate your interest in understanding the evidence and analyses that informed the panels' reviews and led to their conclusions. I am hopeful that you will understand that, as set forth in our detailed procedures, reviews of allegations of scientific misconduct are confidential, and thus I cannot share further details with you.

I appreciate your taking the time to once again share your concerns with me, and I hope you find this information useful.

Sincerely,



Derek Bok