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Secretariat on Responsible
Conduct of Research

Secrétariat sur la conduite
responsable de la recherche

May 30, 2019

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Dr. Sylvain Charbonneau
Vice-President, Research
Office of the Vice-President, Research
University of Ottawa
550 Cumberland Street, room 246
Ottawa ON K1N 6N5

Re: SRCR file # SG2- 201854263

Dear Dr. Charbonneau:

As you are aware, in July 2018, the Secretariat on Responsible Conduct of Research (the Secretariat) received an allegation from Mr. Chris Jezewski of the Polish Media Issues group alleging that the University of Ottawa did not appropriately respond to an allegation submitted by Mr. Marek Blazejak against Dr. Jan Grabowski.

The Agencies' mandate with respect to allegations against Institutions is limited to determining whether the University of Ottawa adhered to the requirements of the *Tri-Agency Framework: Responsible Conduct of Research* ("RCR Framework") when responding to Dr. Blazejak's allegation. With this in mind, we reviewed the file, the University's report on its inquiry, follow-up correspondence between the Secretariat and the University, and the recommendations of the Panel on Responsible Conduct of Research. On this basis, we have determined that, despite a minor delay, the University of Ottawa's inquiry process met the requirements of the RCR Framework and the *Agreement on the Administration of Agency Grants and Awards by Research Institutions*. We have accepted the University's position that the allegation was not responsible, as defined in the RCR Framework and its interpretations, because the allegation is a matter of scholarly opinion.

Our file on this matter is now closed. However, if you have any questions, please contact the Secretariat at secretariat@srcr-scr.r.gc.ca.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Strong, MD
FRCPC, FAAN, FCAHS
President
Canadian Institutes of Health
Research

Dr. Digvir S. Jayas, OC, PhD,
PEng, PAg, FRSC
Interim President
Natural Sciences and
Engineering Research Council

Ted Hewitt, PhD
President
Social Sciences and Humanities
Research Council

Cc: Ms. Catherine Paquet, Director, Office of Research Ethics and Integrity, University of Ottawa
Chris Jezewski, Polish Media Issues group

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