

# Response to Freedom of Information Law Request

Paul F. Occhiogrosso

Wed 3/9/2022 2:41 PM

To: Sean Spurgin <sean.spurgin@gmail.com>;

Cc: Sakine Franke <sfranke@ccny.cuny.edu>; Kay Kelly <kkelly1@ccny.cuny.edu>;

Dear Mr. Spurgin:

Your March 7, 2022 email immediately below, addressed to Drs. Lima and Wesson, has been referred to me for response. Please note that the CUNY School of Medicine is an academic division of The City College of New York ("City College"). In addition to serving as the legal counsel for City College, I also serve as City College's Records Access Officer.

The New York Freedom of Information Law (N.Y. Public Officers Law §§ 84-90) provides a process for requesting "records" only. See Public Officers Law § 87(2).

Your request is hereby denied in full on the ground that the records requested are not "reasonably described," as required by Public Officers Law § 89(3)(a). Please note that any request for records must provide a reasonable date range for responsive records. If you wish to clarify your request, I will reconsider it.

In accordance with Public Officers Law § 89(4)(a), you may appeal this decision in writing within 30 calendar days of the date of this email to:

Derek Davis, Esq.  
Senior Vice Chancellor for Legal Affairs and General Counsel  
The City University of New York  
205 East 42nd Street  
New York, NY 10017  
[ogc@cuny.edu](mailto:ogc@cuny.edu)

Sincerely,

*Paul F. Occhiogrosso, Esq.  
Executive Counsel to the President  
The City College of New York  
Wille Administration Building, Rm. 200  
160 Convent Avenue  
New York, NY 10031*

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**From:** Sean Spurgin <sean.spurgin@gmail.com>

**Date:** Monday, March 7, 2022 at 3:07 PM

**To:** Maria D Lima <mlima@med.cuny.edu>, Rosemarie Wesson <rwesson@ccny.cuny.edu>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: Review of Dr Hoau-yan Wang's clinical research

Hello and good afternoon,

My Name is Sean Spurgin and I am writing to submit a FOIL request in order to find out what is currently being done to review the request for investigation into research performed by Dr Hoau-Yan Wang. For background, appended to this email you will find correspondence with Travis McCarthy who was kind enough to respond to my original request. I do not need physical copies for this request. What I am looking for is the following -

1. Timeline and process for internal review of research in question.
2. Status of any current investigation or process being undertaken.
3. Significant Financial Interest Disclosure Form and Supplement Form (Forms 1 and 2) completed by Dr Wang
4. Any emails sent or received between Dr Wang and the following list of recipients

- o Dr Lindsay Burns
- o Remi Barbier
- o Dr Nadav Friedmann

Thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Sean Spurgin

On Thu, Jan 13, 2022 at 12:00 PM Travis McCarthy <[Travis.McCarthy@cuny.edu](mailto:Travis.McCarthy@cuny.edu)> wrote:

Hi Sean,

You would need to contact the PI or someone from the research office of the campus of the PI.

Best,  
Travis



**Travis McCarthy**

Senior Research Compliance Administrator  
Office of Research  
The City University of New York  
205 East 42<sup>nd</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10017  
[travis.mccarthy@cuny.edu](mailto:travis.mccarthy@cuny.edu)  
T 646.664.8906

**From:** Sean Spurgin <[sean.spurgin@gmail.com](mailto:sean.spurgin@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 9:18 PM  
**To:** Travis McCarthy <[Travis.McCarthy@cuny.edu](mailto:Travis.McCarthy@cuny.edu)>  
**Subject:** Re: Review of Dr Hoau-yan Wang's clinical research

Hello Travis,

Thanks for getting back to me. I am interested in knowing the status of any formal investigation into manipulation of data supporting the journal article Neurobiology of Aging 2017 55:99. Apologies if you were not the individual I should have reached out to.

Please let me know if you need further information or clarity.

Thank you.

Sean Spurgin.

On Tue, Jan 11, 2022 at 12:25 PM Travis McCarthy <[Travis.McCarthy@cuny.edu](mailto:Travis.McCarthy@cuny.edu)> wrote:

Hi Sean,

My apologies, but I am not permitted to disclose sensitive documents to unauthorized emails. If you can narrow down the type of review, I can direct you to the best office to contact.

Best,  
Travis



**Travis McCarthy**

Senior Research Compliance Administrator  
Office of Research  
The City University of New York  
[205 East 42<sup>nd</sup> Street](#)  
New York, NY 10017  
[travis.mccarthy@cuny.edu](mailto:travis.mccarthy@cuny.edu)  
T 646.664.8906

**From:** Sean Spurgin <[sean.spurgin@gmail.com](mailto:sean.spurgin@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, January 10, 2022 12:59 PM

**To:** [dgreenfield@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:dgreenfield@gc.cuny.edu); [pailine.gonen-smith@cuny.edu](mailto:pailine.gonen-smith@cuny.edu); Travis McCarthy <[Travis.McCarthy@cuny.edu](mailto:Travis.McCarthy@cuny.edu)>

**Subject:** Review of Dr Hoau-yan Wang's clinical research

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Hello and thanks in advance for response,

My Name is Sean Spurgin and I have interest in the status of review that was requested by Mr Remi Barbier of Cassava Sciences. I am wondering if there may be any information that any of you can provide regarding status of review of Dr Wang's clinical research. If there is a review on-going, is there a statute timeline for the review and will there be an acknowledgement of findings in this matter? I appreciate your time in responding to my questions.

Sincerely,

Sean Spurgin.