

## Case Study Three – David Walker

Professor Scott Galbreath has made no secret of his consulting agreement with ABC Pharma. He travels to Miami to meet with company scientists. Sometimes he is in Miami several days at a time, and frequently visits ABC two or three times a month. David Walker, his administrative assistant, makes his travel arrangements. Dr. Galbreath also makes no secret of the fact that the vacation he took to Paris this year was made possible by the money he made in his consulting activities.

Last week Dr. Galbreath submitted a proposal to NIH on work closely related to the work he has been doing for ABC. As David was preparing the proposal, he noticed that Dr. Galbreath did not indicate he had a possible conflict of interest on the PAR. Given his knowledge of Dr. Galbreath's consulting activity with ABC and the close relationship to his NIH proposal, David did not feel comfortable submitting the proposal without the conflict noted.

David approached Dr. Galbreath and shared his concerns. Dr. Galbreath took great offense and said "How dare you question my integrity! This is none of your business, so just do as you are told and submit the proposal to Contracts and Grants."

David is concerned as to what is the appropriate action to take without being penalized. If he reports Dr. Galbreath, he fears he might get fired. Can he prove that Dr. Galbreath did anything wrong? What if he reports the situation and turns out to be wrong? Then again, what if he is right and doesn't report the situation?