

OU prof awaits decision on status

BY PAT MURPHY
STAFF WRITER

The fate of an Oakland University researcher suspended for scientific misconduct involving HIV research remains in limbo, even though the grace period following his disciplinary hearing has expired.

Dr. Rasul G. Chaudhry, associate professor of biology, remains on paid suspension and is anxiously awaiting a decision from OU President Sandra Packard. "But right now, we don't know any more than you do," Chaudhry's attorney, Steven Landau, said Friday.

Chaudhry was suspended Aug. 11 after a committee appointed by Packard reviewed the HIV re-

search project he directed in 1992. The committee cleared Chaudhry of at least four charges of scientific misconduct, but concluded evidence supported allegations Chaudhry had:

■ Failed to obtain proper authorization to acquire and/or use biohazardous materials.

- Failed to adhere to guidelines recommended by the Centers for Disease Control for experiments carried out with infectious HIV.

- Failed to respond promptly to the university's questions about his experiments and may even have provided misleading information.

Chaudhry's closed disciplinary hearing was Sept. 27, after which

Gary D. Russi, OU academic vice president, was to make a recommendation to Packard. The recommendation could range from admonishment or written reprimand to suspension or dismissal.

The OU president could impose suspension or a lesser penalty without approval of the Board of Trustees, said Susan M. Gerrits, the university's acting general counsel. "But any dismissal must be reviewed by the board."

Garrits declined to comment about the possible recommendation from Russi to Packard. "I can't even confirm that it has been made yet," she said Friday.

Chaudhry was recruited by OU in 1989 and one of his duties in-

cluded HIV research under a federal grant. He came under fire — and his research was terminated — after two other faculty members complained of scientific misconduct.

One of those two complaining faculty members, biology professor Fay Hansen-Smith, was named in a \$3 million libel suit filed on behalf of Chaudhry.

"Our suit contends professor Hansen-Smith made misleading and false statements in her complaint against Dr. Chaudhry," said attorney Landau, who contends action against his client was triggered by AIDS hysteria.

The suit is pending in Oakland Circuit Court, he said.

Outstanding OCC alumnus grew up in Farmington

Oakland Community College has named Nicholas Abid, an osteopathic doctor, its Outstanding Alumnus for 1994.

The honor is conferred annually on an OCC graduate for high personal achievements and contributions to the community.

Previous recipients include state Rep. Barbara Dobb, R-Commerce Township, and Oakland University professor Wilman Garcia.

Abid, who graduated with a lib-

eral arts degree from OCC in 1971, continued his studies as a scholarship student at Michigan State University where he earned a bachelor's degree in zoology and a doctorate in osteopathy.

He completed an internship at Grand Rapids Osteopathic Hospital in 1978 and residency in the department of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at the University of Washington in 1981.

Born in Detroit, Abid grew up in Farmington, where his mother

The father of three, Abid and his wife, Jean, now live in Valparaiso, Ind.

Currently in private practice with Psychiatric Consultation Services of Northwest Indiana, Abid is also medical director of the LaPorte Hospital Stress Center.

Abid has been involved in professional and civic organizations, including the National Board of Osteopathic Examiners, the

Michigan and Illinois Psychiatric Societies, the Holland (Mich.) Rotary Club and the American Psychiatric Association.

He is currently the president of the American College of Neurologists and Psychiatrists.

Candidates for the annual OCC Outstanding Alumni Award are nominated by members of the college faculty and staff. Final selection is made by a committee composed of members of the OCC alumni organization.

Oakland University taps new dean for nursing school

The Oakland University Board of Trustees has approved the appointment of Justine Jane Speer from the University of Louisville as dean of the OU School of Nursing.

The new dean was appointed professor of nursing by the board Oct. 6. Speer has led the School of Nursing at the University of Louisville since 1984 and began her OU duties Jan. 3, replacing acting dean Carol Zenas.

No stranger to the Michigan environment, Speer worked at the College of Nursing at Wayne State University from 1972 to 1983, leaving in 1983 as assistant dean, graduate studies, to become

Dean Speer received her B.S. and M.S. degrees from the Uni-

versity of Minnesota where she did her graduate work in public health nursing. She later received her Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota as well, this time majoring in sociology. She has had

The new dean has an extensive list of publications and presentations at professional meetings dealing with varied aspects of her

profession. She is a member of numerous professional organizations, including the American Academy of Nursing of which she is a fellow. She is also a member of the American Nurses Asso-

ber of the American Nurses Association, the National League for Nursing and Sigma Theta Tau. Her many contributions include service in the Peace Corps where she served as a professional nurse recruiter and site observer in Costa Rica.

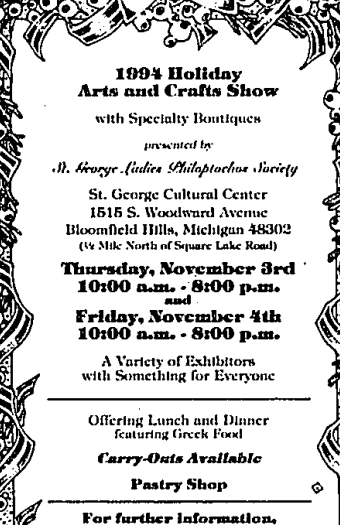
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