Human Subjects

Role Play:

This is a 2-person role play involving a Physician-Researcher and a Department Chair

Roles:

Physician-Researcher

Department Chair

Character Description:

Physician-Researcher

You are a very successful neurologist at a large academic medical center, and the director of the division of critical care neurology. You rotate as an attending physician in the hospital. You are also principal investigator (PI) of two large NIH R01 studies and two clinical trials funded by industry partners. In addition, you chair an IRB, serve as a preceptor for several trainees, and direct a course for medical students. You also serve on a NIH study section, travel frequently as a speaker here and abroad, and are the incoming president of the regional chapter of your professional association. Now, you want to apply to be Principal Investigator on a new NIH institutional research training grant, which would admit four trainees per year. You thrive on keeping a hectic schedule and enjoy the diversity of your commitments. However, because of this lifestyle, your spouse has left you. Now, you have completely immersed yourself into your work.

Character Description:

Department Chair

You are Chair of the Neurology Department at a large academic medical center. You have spent the last few years trying to keep your physician-researcher happy, as he is always letting you know about offers he receives from other prestigious universities. You know that he supports many valuable programs in your department. Typically, he has students, post-docs, and others who work in his labs covering many of his academic duties. The Sponsored Projects office has brought to the attention of the provost the dubious Effort Reports he has submitted, and the provost has asked you to look into the matter, because they fear he would not pass muster with federal auditors. (An Effort Report indicates total university-compensated effort, which may include teaching, research, public service, administrative and other university-related activities).You are especially concerned now that he has emailed you that he will stop by to have you sign off on his proposal to be Principal Investigator on a NIH institutional research training grant, requiring his supervision and guidance.

*Scenario*

*Physician-Researcher:*“Hi, did you get my email?”

*Department Chair:* “I did.”

*Physician-Researcher:* "Great. All I need is your signature on my application to the NIH…”

*Department chair:* How do you respond?