

RESPONSE FROM UNIVERISTY OF WASHINGTON:

“The Origincell Endowed Professorship was established through a gift agreement signed in late 2016 as a \$1 million endowment. Professor Gao was the named holder of the professorship and received annual support generated from the endowment's investment earnings. Origincell was not designated by the U.S. Department of Defense as a Chinese military company until 2025.

When that designation was established, the University's International Agreements Risk Assessment Committee undertook a review and took appropriate action regarding the associated endowment and professorship. As a result of that review, the University determined that no additional awards would be made from the endowment, and references to the Origincell professorship were removed from public-facing materials. Because the professorship term had already concluded, the website update was largely a formal administrative change reflecting the University's decision regarding future use of the fund.

The University requires Research Security training in accordance with federal requirements, full disclosure on current and pending (other) support, to which an individual certifies, and that all University policies are followed, including conflict of interest, outside work, and intellectual property protection. UW's research compliance program describes the hallmarks of a foreign talent program, to help individuals and departments identify and receive assistance on next steps and routinely provides presentations/consultation to groups across campus. The University expects that all UW personnel follow University policy and specific sponsor requirements.

For those who will participate on a sponsored program, internal controls are in place to help safeguard against and mitigate any conflicting commitments or obligations.”