

Scientist surrenders in Reno research theft case

RENO, Nev. — A top scientist accused of stealing research notes after her firing from a Nevada medical institute has voluntarily surrendered to authorities even as she maintains her innocence, her lawyer said Tuesday.

Also, the documents at the center of the dispute involving chronic fatigue syndrome researcher Judy Mikovits have been turned over to authorities, attorney Scott Freeman said.

Mikovits is the former lead researcher at the Whittemore Peterson Institute for Neuro-Immune Disease on the campus of the University of Nevada, Reno.

She was arrested last week in California and had been ordered to appear at an extradition hearing Dec. 19. But Freeman said that no longer is necessary because his client turned herself in at the Washoe County, Nev., jail Monday and was formally charged with two felony counts — possession of stolen property and unlawfully taking computer data and equipment.

Mikovits was held briefly and now is free on her own recognizance, Freeman said. He said he was in discussions Tuesday with prosecutors about how to proceed with the case and that no court appearances have been scheduled.

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