

February 27, 2008

Dear international scholar/student,

This message is to alert you of an e-mail scam that is designed to trick you into believing that the U.S. federal government owes you money. As you may already know, tax season is quickly approaching. This is a time when anyone who has been employed in the U.S. must report their earnings to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Scam artists use this time to take advantage of unsuspecting individuals by sending an email message claiming that the IRS has just discovered that they are owed a refund. In reality, this is just an attempt at identity theft.

We urge you to keep the following in mind:

- 1) Beware of e-mail messages that claim to be from the IRS, even if the email exchange ends with .gov. E-mail is not the IRS' preferred way of communication when dealing with tax refunds. If you receive any such message, you should call the IRS directly.
- 2) If you receive an email message of this nature on your UMDNJ account, forward it to spam@umdnj.edu. This will assist UMDNJ's Information Technology personnel in blocking these kinds of messages.
- 3) Do not enter your Social Security Number (SSN) on any website that claims to be for the IRS. The IRS already knows your SSN and they do not need to ask you for it.
- 4) Beware of phone calls or voice messages from individuals claiming to be from the IRS asking you to provide them with your SSN information or credit card information. You should not provide this type of information over the phone.
- 5) Never give your credit card number or credit card pin number to someone that claims to be from the IRS. The IRS does not need your credit card information to send you a refund.
- 6) Should you have any questions regarding your taxes or tax refunds, you should contact the IRS directly at 1 (800) 829-1040.
- 7) REMEMBER: if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is too good to be true. While most of us would like to think that there is lost money out there that belongs to us, that is not likely to happen. Chances are that if you have been reporting your earnings on a yearly basis, you would be aware of any money owed to you by the IRS.

Should you have any questions regarding this message, feel free to contact the International Services Office at 973-972-6138 or send us an e-mail at ojs@umdnj.edu. For questions regarding tax filings you should visit the IRS' website at <http://www.irs.gov> or call 1-800-829-1040.

Sincerely,
Yocasta Brens-Watson
Manager, International Services