



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

## CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A14100058

Page 1 of 1

NSF OIG received an allegation that an assistant professor<sup>1</sup> at a University<sup>2</sup> falsified data in an NSF proposal.<sup>3</sup> The University's Investigation Committee determined that the assistant professor's acts of mislabeling figures in a published manuscript,<sup>4</sup> poster,<sup>5</sup> and the NSF proposal met the definition of falsification of data. The Investigation Committee did not make a research misconduct finding, because they concluded the preponderance of the evidence did not establish that the acts were committed intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly. The University agreed with the Investigation Committee's conclusion that research misconduct did not occur. The University implemented the recommended actions, which included a correction of the publication, remedial training courses, and oversight by a mentoring committee for a period of three years.

We disagreed, in part, with the University's findings. We did not find that the mislabeled figure in the manuscript constituted an act of data falsification but rather was a mistake generated during the manuscript publisher's formatting process. We did conclude that the other two acts of data falsification were committed recklessly, fit a pattern of research misconduct, and were a significant departure from accepted practices. NSF concurred with the recommendations in our Report of Investigation (ROI) and made a finding of research misconduct. The assistant professor did not appeal NSF's finding. NSF required a certification that he had fully complied with the University's implemented actions. NSF also issued a letter of reprimand. Additionally, for a one year period, NSF required submission of certifications and assurances in the adherence to a data management plan and prohibited him from participating as a peer reviewer, advisor, or consultant for NSF.

Accordingly, this case is **closed**.

1 [REDACTED]  
2 [REDACTED]  
3 [REDACTED]  
4 [REDACTED]  
5 [REDACTED]