



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A14120067

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A PI retracted two papers and a proposal submitted to NIH because she suspected a graduate student had falsified figures and experiments. We became aware of the situation after the second retraction occurred and referred the investigation to the university. The university investigation concluded that the graduate student had falsified 14 figures in the 2 papers and the NIH proposal. However, the committee felt a lack of physical evidence precluded them from drawing any conclusions on whether the graduate student had falsified the experiments. We concurred with the university investigation that 14 figures were falsified. We reassessed the available evidence and, using the preponderance of the evidence standard, concluded that the graduate student falsified the experiments. We recommended NSF debar the graduate student for 5 years, and require the graduate student to submit certifications, assurances, and detailed data management plans with annual certifications of adherence for 8 years, as well as bar the graduate student from serving as a reviewer, advisor, or consultant for 8 years. NSF debarred the graduate student for 1 year and required 3 years of certifications, assurances, and the submission of detailed data management plans with annual certifications of adherence, and barred the graduate student from serving as a reviewer, advisor, or consultant for 3 years.

This case is closed with no further action taken.