



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

## CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A15010002

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We received an allegation that a PI created and submitted a falsified/fabricated Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval with an NSF proposal involving human subject research.

The University conducted an investigation and determined the PI committed research misconduct. It took action against the PI and voluntarily relinquished the NSF award. The University found no pattern of IRB fabrication/falsification within the IRB documents it maintained.

Our subsequent investigation found that the PI created and submitted false IRB approvals to NSF in connection with four NSF proposals.

We referred the matter to the Department of Justice. The U.S. Attorney's Office entered into a civil settlement with the PI. Without admitting liability, the PI agreed to settle allegations that he violated the False Claims Act by submitting false documents to NSF to obtain Federal research grants and making false certifications in his awards' annual reports. The settlement required the PI to pay more than \$130,000; be voluntarily excluded from applying for or participating in any Federal grants for approximately 19 months; withdraw from any pending applications for Federal funding; provide certifications to NSF for 5 years; provide assurances to NSF for 3 years; and not serve as an NSF reviewer, advisor, or consultant for 3 years.

Accordingly, this case is closed.