



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

## CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A15030014

Page 1 of 1

NSF OIG received allegations regarding two NSF-funded<sup>1</sup> publications. Specifically, it was alleged that the authors of the first paper<sup>2</sup> compared one data set<sup>3</sup> with its own experimental data, but intentionally failed to include a third data set<sup>4</sup> that disagreed with their own dataset. Regarding the second paper,<sup>5</sup> it was alleged that the authors reported misleading data because the data was inconsistent with other data sets, the procedure the authors used to correct the data was random, and the data was derivative of an inferior and then unpublished dataset.

Our review of the allegation related to the first paper found that the authors openly state in the paper that there is a discrepancy between their data and the comparison data set, propose reasons for the differences, and describe the standards they use. We concluded that the allegations involved a scientific dispute rather than research misconduct.

Our review of the allegations related to the second paper found both that the authors describe the procedure used for correcting the data in the paper, and that, as a peer-reviewed paper accepted for publication, the peer reviewers clearly considered the procedure valid. We again concluded that the allegations involved a scientific dispute rather than research misconduct.

Accordingly, this case is closed with no further action taken.

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