



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A15060039

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A university notified us that it had completed an inquiry into an allegation of data fabrication in a published paper acknowledging NSF support. The inquiry committee determined that the allegation had substance. We concurred and referred the investigation to the university.

The university, after investigation and adjudication, determined that a graduate student had manipulated an instrument to obtain the desired results. The university concluded that the graduate student had committed research misconduct and expelled her.

We concurred with the university's findings and recommended that NSF debar the graduate student for 3 years and require the graduate student to submit certifications and assurances for 3 years post-debarment. NSF debarred the graduate student for 1 year, required that for 4 years the graduate student submit certifications, assurances, and detailed data management plans with annual certifications of adherence, and barred the graduate student from serving as an NSF reviewer, advisor, or consultant for 4 years.

This case is **closed** with no further action taken.