



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A15090053

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NSF OIG received allegations that an NSF-supported graduate student at a university engaged in research misconduct. In accordance with their policy and procedures, the university convened a committee to assess the allegations. The committee concluded that the image of an experimental result, which was included in an unpublished manuscript, displayed indications of alteration. The graduate student, who did not share laboratory data records, withdrew from the graduate program and ceased communications with the laboratory and university, citing personal reasons and a perceived conflict with the laboratory during the formation of an associated company. The university dismissed the graduate student from the graduate program and the university. After review, we determined there was insufficient substance to warrant further inquiry into the matter. We sent the former graduate student a questionable research practices letter and the university a questionable administrative practices letter regarding data management practices and the data sharing policy.

Accordingly, this case is closed with no further action.