



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

## CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-16-0078-O

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An NSF-funded PI falsified data contained in an NSF proposal. The university investigation committee concluded the PI intentionally and recklessly falsified data in one figure and recklessly fabricated data in a second figure. The university made a research misconduct finding against the PI but did not impose any sanctions because the PI resigned and departed the United States.

We accepted the investigation committee's findings regarding the first figure. In a previous OIG case,<sup>1</sup> NSF made a research misconduct finding against the PI regarding the second figure. Therefore, our report did not address the second figure. We concluded that the PI intentionally falsified data for the first figure in an awarded NSF proposal and failed to comply with the certification and assurance requirements imposed by NSF following the previous research misconduct finding. The PI also falsified data records related to the figure in a laboratory member's notebook.

We recommended that NSF make a finding of research misconduct and debar the PI for 5 years. We also recommended that the PI be required to complete training in the responsible conduct of research (RCR). We further recommended that for 10 years from the date of the research misconduct finding, NSF should: require the PI to submit certifications and assurances for documents submitted to NSF; require the PI to submit a detailed data management plan for proposals, with annual certifications in the case of awards; and bar the PI from participating as an NSF peer reviewer, advisor, or consultant.

NSF made a finding of research misconduct and imposed the actions as recommended above.

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

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<sup>1</sup> A12080057