



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-18-0005-O

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A university notified us it had completed an investigation into allegations of data falsification against a faculty member who is the PI of two NSF grants. The PI's alleged misconduct took place nearly a decade ago and the grants are over a decade old. The University concluded the Subject falsified two figures in a paper acknowledging his NSF funding, and he also included one of those falsified figures in annual reports submitted to NSF. The University made a finding of research misconduct and informed: a) the journal editor and recommended a retraction, b) the co-authors of the finding and recommendation, and c) the research sponsors. The PI was prohibited from advising, supervising, or training graduate students or postdocs for an academic year and a copy of the findings will be entered in his personnel file.

We reviewed the University's report and accepted it as accurate and complete. Regarding the University's recommendation about the paper, the PI and the journal editor agreed the PI could address the figures with a *Corrigendum*. Thus, while we agree the PI's actions were a departure from accepted standards in his community, we conclude the University's actions are sufficient to protect NSF's interests in this instance. Thus, we sent the PI a letter cautioning him to follow community standards in the future. Accordingly, this case is closed with no further action taken.