

Closeout of M91050022

Portions of this case reached OIG at various times and from various sources. The portion being closed out here came from an anonymous informant and was transmitted by Congressman [REDACTED] this month. The allegation was that Dr. [REDACTED], the Division Director of [REDACTED], has generated data by "cooking" numbers, thereby violating conventional research standards and distorting the truth. By releasing these results in the name of NSF the subject continues to mislead Congress and the public.

OIG examined the evidence provided and came to the conclusion that this matter has to do with technical disagreement rather than misconduct. Nothing in the evidence indicates that data have been fabricated or inaccurately presented. On the other hand, there is dispute about the quality of the data employed and about the conclusions that should be drawn from them. These are matters that should be decided by the relevant scientific experts. It is within the competence of NSF management, if it wishes, to request a technical review of the subject's output and to prevent its publication if that output is judged to be an embarrassment to NSF. Consequently, this portion of the case does not justify a full misconduct investigation or any further action by OIG.

Other portions of the case involve conflicts of interest and auditing matters, rather than misconduct. These other portions are being transferred to the Investigative staff.

[REDACTED]

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