



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-20-0063-O

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A University received an allegation that an NSF-funded graduate student (Subject) working on NSF- and NIH-supported research falsified and fabricated data within laboratory progress reports for more than 3 years. The University investigated and concluded, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the Subject committed research misconduct when he intentionally committed fabrication and falsification, and that the acts were a significant departure from the accepted practices of the Subject's research community. The University prohibited the Subject from applying for or receiving federal or external research funding, prohibited the Subject from serving as a teaching assistant or fellow, and reported the matter to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Research Integrity, which then reported it to us. The University subsequently dismissed the Subject from the University, prohibited the Subject from reapplying to the University, and prevented the Subject from earning a degree based on prior work.

We accepted the University's report in lieu of conducting our own investigation. We concurred that a preponderance of the evidence demonstrated that the Subject intentionally committed data falsification and fabrication, and that the act was a significant departure from accepted practices of his research community.

We recommended that NSF make a finding of research misconduct; send the Subject a letter of reprimand; debar him for 3 years; and require he certify to NSF his completion of an RCR training program within 1 year. We also recommended that, for 5 years, NSF prohibit the Subject from participating as an NSF peer reviewer, advisor, or consultant; require he submit certifications and assurances; and require he submit a detailed data management plan with each NSF proposal.

NSF accepted our recommendations but imposed for 4 years the actions we recommended be imposed for 5 years.

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