



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

## CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-21-0022-O

Page 1 of 1

A University notified us it had conducted an inquiry into alleged research misconduct against a former postdoctoral researcher whose research was funded by an NSF award. The University found that the postdoctoral researcher committed research misconduct by falsifying and/or fabricating data in an internal research report. The falsified and/or fabricated data were subsequently incorporated into an NSF annual report and incorporated into a manuscript that acknowledged NSF support. The University notified NSF and the postdoctoral researcher's current employer.

We concurred with the University that the postdoctoral researcher committed research misconduct. Specifically, we determined that the postdoctoral researcher intentionally plagiarized images and subsequently falsified data by portraying them as original work. We recommended that NSF debar the postdoctoral researcher for 1 year; for 4 years (concurrent with the debarment plus 3 years afterwards), require certifications and assurances; and prohibit the student from participation as a peer reviewer, advisor, or consultant for NSF. NSF concurred with our findings and recommendations.

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