



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-19-0069-O

Page 1 of 1

We received an allegation that an NSF PI directed his student to falsify data in a paper submitted to a conference. The paper acknowledged NSF funding. We referred the matter to the university. The university investigation determined that the student found a flaw in the paper and wanted to withdraw the submitted paper. The PI instructed the student to instead remove a result. The university concluded the PI's direction was intended to make the results more robust, that omitting the result was data falsification, and that this was a significant departure from accepted practice for the research community. Therefore, the university concluded the omission constituted research misconduct.

The PI left the United States and is currently employed by a university in another country.

We determined that although the omission of the result was a questionable act, the data and results presented in the paper were accurate. We could not conclude that there was a significant departure from accepted practice or that the conduct constituted research misconduct. However, because the Subject's actions were a detrimental research practice, we sent him a warning letter.

This case is closed with no further action taken.