



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-20-0049-O

Page 1 of 1

We received a complaint alleging a professor fabricated and/or falsified data in multiple retracted publications, including one that acknowledged an NSF award. The professor was the principal investigator on the NSF award. The university conducted an inquiry and determined an investigation was not warranted. We disagreed. The university declined to conduct a research misconduct investigation, and we initiated our own investigation.

We found that NSF reviewers identified a specific concern about the proposed research and the professor clarified his research plan, yet he did not implement appropriate methods in his published research. We also learned that the university investigated the professor's behavior outside of its research misconduct policy and terminated the professor.

We determined that the matter did not warrant additional investigation and issued a Detrimental Research Practice letter to the PI. We also issued a Detrimental Administrative Practice letter to the university.

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