



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-20-0069-O

Page 1 of 1

A university reviewed an allegation that a PI falsified his participation in outreach activities in an annual report for his CAREER award. The university's inquiry determined there was sufficient evidence that the PI falsified outreach activities in the annual report to warrant an investigation. We concurred and referred the investigation to the university.

As part of its investigation, the university also reviewed allegations that the PI falsified data in progress reports to another federal agency. At the university's request, we interviewed the relevant NSF program director and provided the university with the transcript.

The university committee determined the PI falsified his participation in outreach activities in his annual report for his CAREER award. We concurred with the university's finding regarding the NSF report. However, we differed from the university in that we found the PI was culpable for submitting falsified data in monthly progress reports to another federal agency.

We concluded the PI engaged in a pattern of misrepresenting his accomplishments in progress reports to federal agencies. We recommended NSF make a finding of research misconduct; issue a letter of reprimand; require the PI to take a responsible and ethical conduct of research course; and, for 3 years, require the PI to provide certifications and assurances with each document he submits to NSF and prohibit the PI from serving as a peer reviewer, advisor, or consultant to NSF. NSF concurred with our recommendations but implemented the actions for 2 years.

This case is closed with no further action taken.