



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-23-0018-O

Page 1 of 1

A university reviewed an allegation that a PI falsified a figure in a manuscript submitted to a journal. The university learned that the manuscript was rejected but later published by another journal, and that the figure also appeared in a graduate student's dissertation. The university determined the allegation had merit and warranted further investigation. In addition, the university named two former graduate students as additional subjects. We concurred with the university that an investigation was warranted and that the two graduate students should be additional subjects. We referred the investigation to the university.

The university found that the two former graduate students who conducted the experiments depicted in the figure did not keep detailed records of the experiments. However, the university recovered multiple data files that appeared to be the underlying data for the figure. The university concluded that none of the subjects committed research misconduct, but all engaged in detrimental research practices. The university instituted additional oversight of the PI.

We concurred with the university that the subjects did not commit research misconduct and that their actions constituted detrimental research practices. We sent each a warning letter.

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