



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

## CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-16-0111-O

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A University<sup>1</sup> conducted an inquiry and subsequent investigation into an allegation that a graduate student (Subject<sup>2</sup>) committed misconduct by not following experimental protocol in his PI's<sup>3</sup> NSF-funded project.<sup>4</sup> It was also alleged that the Subject lacked adequate documentation of his experiments.

The University's investigation was conducted under their policy, which has a broader definition of misconduct than NSF's Research Misconduct policy. Its investigation concluded that the Subject committed misconduct as defined by their policy, but did not commit falsification or fabrication as defined by NSF policy. The University reasoned that even if the Subject performed experiments outside of the protocol, which could have constituted a misrepresentation of the limited research data he did record, there is no evidence to suggest the Subject falsified recorded data to make them appear closer to protocol.

We concurred with the University and sent the Subject a Questionable Research Practices letter. This case is closed with no further action taken.

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[Redacted content]