



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A08050029

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We identified two images in an NSF proposal¹ which a PI² had previously published³ with significantly different experimental conditions. We referred an investigation for alleged data fabrication or falsification to the PI's institution.⁴ The institution secured evidence and examined data from the PI's lab. The institution determined that the PI's graduate student⁵ had collected images consistent with the experimental conditions reported in the proposal at least one year prior to proposal submission. From these images, the institution concluded that there would have been no motive for the PI to use the images from the publication. The institution concluded that this was a case of honest error or mistake. We concur with the institution that there is insufficient evidence to support an allegation of data fabrication or falsification against the PI.

Accordingly, this case is closed.

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