



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

## CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A11080053

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A university<sup>1</sup> notified us that a student<sup>2</sup> had admitted to falsifying data in a pre-publication manuscript and a presentation. The university research misconduct policy included a provision that if the subject made an admission of misconduct, the university could move immediately to final decision and action. Accordingly the university took the final action prior to completing an inquiry and expelled the student. Because both NSF and NIH funding were potentially involved, the university notified both of the finding of misconduct. Subsequently, the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Research Integrity entered into a voluntary settlement agreement with the student.

The university initially identified a NSF award<sup>3</sup> as funding the affected work. The student's advisor<sup>4</sup> was the PI on the award. The university later revised its assessment, noting that the student did not receive salary from the NSF award. However, we identified an annual report for an NSF award that included a publication<sup>5</sup> with the PI and the student as coauthors. Despite this connection to NSF, there is insufficient evidence that the student's admitted misconduct extended to work reported in that publication.

Accordingly, this case is closed.

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