



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A15080046

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A University received allegations that an NSF-supported graduate student (Subject) committed falsification, plagiarism, and ethical violations in preparing and submitting a manuscript, which was published in two journals.

The University conducted an investigation and determined, based on a preponderance of the evidence, that the Subject committed plagiarism and falsification with varying levels of intent ranging from reckless to intentional, depending on the allegation. It dismissed the Subject and pursued retraction of the two publications. It also made recommendations to the Subject's academic department to ensure all students received appropriate training.

Our independent investigation determined the Subject acted intentionally in plagiarizing figures and text from another researcher's dissertation and in falsifying data in a manuscript published in two journals. It also found that the Subject's plagiarism and falsification represented a significant departure from accepted practices.

We recommended that NSF make a finding of research misconduct against the Subject; send him a letter of reprimand; debar him for three years; and require he submit certifications and assurances for six years from the date of NSF's finding. NSF's Chief Operating Officer concurred with our recommendations.

Accordingly, this case is *closed*.