



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

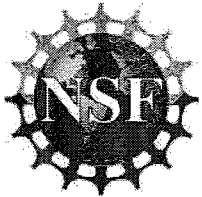
Case Number: A13070076

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NSF OIG received an Inquiry Report from a university¹ regarding allegations that a professor² fabricated data and falsified the status of manuscripts in multiple NSF documents. During the university's inquiry, the professor contended he committed acts of honest error and made misstatements and prognostications. The university's investigation determined, based on the preponderance of the evidence, that the professor intentionally fabricated data³ in one NSF proposal⁴ and intentionally misrepresented the status⁵ of manuscripts in several NSF proposals⁶ and NSF grant annual reports.⁷ The Investigation Committee concluded the professor's research misconduct acts constituted a significant departure from accepted practices of the research community. The university took several disciplinary actions including oversight, remedial training and the prohibition of applying for funds.

We concurred with the university's findings and our investigation established the professor falsified the status of a total of seven manuscripts in four NSF annual grant reports and four NSF proposals. Including the act of data fabrication, we note the professor engaged in a total of twelve acts of research misconduct in a continuous pattern spanning several years. In our Report of Investigation (ROI), we concluded that the professor's fabrication of data and falsification of manuscripts' status were intentional acts, fit a pattern of research misconduct, and were a significant departure from accepted practices. NSF concurred with recommendations in our ROI and made a finding of research misconduct and proposed debarment. However, contrary to our recommendations, the agency did not impose requirements following the debarment period for a data management plan and did not prohibit the professor from participating as a peer

1 [REDACTED]
2 [REDACTED]
3 [REDACTED]
4 [REDACTED]
5 Whether the manuscripts were submitted, in review, accepted or in press.
6 [REDACTED]
7 [REDACTED]



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reviewer, advisor, or consultant for NSF. As the professor did not appeal, NSF finalized the debarment for a period of one year. In addition, NSF required that the professor complete a course in the responsible conduct of research within one year and for three years after the debarment period, required certifications and assurances.

Accordingly, this case is closed.