

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

**ACTION MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** AIGI

**File Number:** A01050013

**Date:** 2/26/02

**Subject:** Closeout

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On March 1, 2001, we received an allegation concerning fabrication and false statements. Complainant<sup>1</sup> alleged that in materials submitted to NSF and NIH, Subject<sup>2</sup> falsely reported results of an experiment that had not yet been performed. The matter was opened for preliminary inquiry on March 3. ORI informed us that Subject had submitted a letter correcting the allegedly false statements in his NIH proposal, and that the corrected version was under review. ORI forwarded materials to us and agreed that we should take the lead.

The matter was opened for inquiry on May 15. We determined that the allegation raised factual and scientific questions that required specific scientific expertise; we therefore contacted Subject's university, who requested that we defer our inquiry while they conducted their own. The University convened an inquiry committee and delivered their report to us on November 29, 2001. The Committee concluded that 'there is insufficient evidence of fabrication and falsification of data involving the above-referenced NSF and NIH proposals to warrant further investigation under the University's disciplinary rules.' Specifically, the Committee found that the allegedly false statements in proposal materials are attributable to miscommunication between Subject and the graduate student who conducted the relevant experiments. The Committee also found that the student's laboratory notebook does not provide reliable evidence of events in the laboratory.

Our independent analysis of evidence in the case, including laboratory notebooks and transcripts of interviews with Subject and the student, supports the Committee's conclusions. We find that the University's report is accurate and complete, and we conclude that there is insufficient evidence to warrant further investigation. This case is closed and no further action will be taken.

<sup>1</sup> [redacted]

<sup>2</sup> [redacted]

Name:	Prepared by:	Cleared by:		
	Agent:	Attorney:	Supervisor:	AIGI
Signature & date:				

