



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A10050036

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NSF OIG received an allegation regarding a failure to share NSF-funded¹ data. Specifically, it was alleged that a graduate student/postdoc (Subject)² produced data in collaboration with his NSF-funded mentor (PI)³ using NSF funds, but subsequently failed to provide the data to the mentor/PI. The Subject responded to the allegation by asserting ownership of the underlying idea and production of the data independently of NSF funding.⁴ The data in question was collected in a laboratory at another university (University Laboratory) on a fee-for-service basis.⁵

Based on documentation we reviewed, we determined the PI and awardee institution⁶ were invoiced for the data collection sessions and paid the invoices, and as such the PI was entitled to the complete set of data he funded. We further determined the Subject had improperly withheld said data from the PI.

During our review, the PI informed us⁷ that the University Laboratory provided him with all of the data in question, resolving the data sharing matter.

Our office will send the Subject a Questionable Research Practice letter reminding him of his responsibility to share NSF-funded data.

Accordingly, this case is closed.

¹ [REDACTED]

² [REDACTED], currently of [REDACTED].

³ [REDACTED], currently of the [REDACTED].

⁴ The PI and the Subject raised numerous allegations against each other. Our review of the allegations and documentary evidence indicate that the relationship between the PI and the Subject is strained and indicative of a dissolved mentor/mentee relationship. We determined that other allegations were predominantly authorship and collaboration issues rather than research misconduct and/or were allegations outside NSF OIG jurisdiction.

⁵ Data was collected at the [REDACTED].

⁶ [REDACTED].

⁷ In an email dated [REDACTED].