



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

## CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A11010003

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We assessed an allegation of misconduct in NSF-supported research.<sup>1</sup> The allegation resolved into several separable issues.

Allegation 1: Misconduct related to invention of certain compounds and a subsequent publication that explored potential applications. Based on our review, we determined that the publication in question did not improperly claim inventorship or design of the compounds. The invention was properly filed and a separate publication described the design and synthesis of the compounds. Part of this allegation was an issue of proper authorship on the applications publication. The authorship issue identified was not deemed to be research misconduct under NSF's definition.

Allegation 2: Suppression of results in an annual report to NSF. Based on our review, we confirmed that research results contributed from one scientist within a collaborative effort were not included in annual reports to NSF. Although these results indicated findings and a differing interpretation which were later supported by a publication from colleagues (see Allegation 3), we concluded that the omission from the report does not constitute suppression. The allegation characterized the omission as falsification; we concluded that the decision not to include the results was reasonable at the time, and did not constitute falsification.

Allegation 3: Misconduct related to a later publication which improperly took credit for earlier "suppressed" results (Allegation 2). The later publication provides some support for the earlier results and interpretation. However, the data in the publication are results from the effort of listed authors, and credit to earlier work was provided. We conclude that there is no research misconduct.

Allegation 4: Improper investigation of allegations by a grantee. The complainant raised several issues related to actions by the grantee, which previously reviewed the matter and concluded there was insufficient merit to further investigate. This is not an issue of research misconduct that our office would investigate.

We conclude there is insufficient merit to the allegations to further investigate these matters. Therefore, this case is closed.

<sup>1</sup>

