



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A13050059

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This case was opened as an independent reexamination of allegations of research misconduct by a graduate student¹ with additional documentation that was not previously provided to us. The previous case² closed because of insufficient evidence to support NSF jurisdiction.

Much of the additional documentation we received purported to demonstrate that research misconduct had occurred. But it did not sufficiently demonstrate that the alleged misconduct took place within an NSF program. The student conducted the experimental work primarily under one advisor³ who has never been a PI or coPI on an NSF award. The student changed advisors to complete his dissertation and publish at least two papers that are the focus of the misconduct allegations. The new advisors⁴ were affiliated with an NSF-funded center;⁵ however, because the advisors had funds from other, non-federal sources and did not claim the student on their annual reports, a definitive nexus with NSF could not be established. Although we were told that the student used NSF-funded resources in faculty colleagues' labs,⁶ the NSF awards that established those resources expired several years ago with title passing to the university.⁷ Thus, the facts do not provide sufficient support for a nexus with NSF. Absent a nexus to NSF funding, the research misconduct allegations are not within our purview.

This case is closed.

1 [REDACTED]

2 A12070049.

3 [REDACTED]

4 [REDACTED]

5 [REDACTED]

6 [REDACTED]

7 [REDACTED]

8 [REDACTED]

9 [REDACTED]

10 [REDACTED]

11 [REDACTED]