



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-16-0044-O

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We received an allegation that an NSF-funded PI may have fabricated data (figures) in a published journal article. We sought out the opinion of a Subject Matter Expert (SME) who opined that he did not believe the actions of the PI rose to the level of research misconduct. The PI's university also conducted an inquiry which determined that the matter was a scientific dispute and did not warrant a complete investigation.

The complainant also filed a letter of concern with the journal. That letter was published in the journal and the PI published a rebuttal to the complainant's letter. At that time, the journal asked for the PI's data supporting the article's figures, which he provided. The journal reviewed the data and took no further actions.

Based on the evidence in this matter, we conclude that a full investigation is not warranted. This case is **closed** with no further action taken.