



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: M001210038

Page 1 of 1

In November 2000, the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Inspector General (OIG) forward to the NSF OIG an allegation of misconduct in science it had received from a confidential source (CS). CS alleged the subject (S1),¹ whose research was DOE funded, falsified data in a paper published in a scientific journal.² Because the allegedly falsified data were relevant to a previous NSF OIG investigation,³ DOE OIG determined that NSF OIG working with the DOE Office of Science would better handle the allegation. After discussing the matter with CS, we learned his allegations of falsification also involved two subjects (S2⁴ and S3⁵) who received NSF funding. Specifically, CS alleged the subjects' misrepresented and omitted data from their publication so as to discredit the subject of the previous NSF OIG investigation.

We wrote the subjects to ask them to respond to the allegations. S1 essentially admitted that he made no personal contribution to the substantive content of the paper, claiming S2 and S3 did the experiments, analyzed the data, and picked which data to put in the publication. S2 and S3, who worked at the same laboratory, explained the rationale associated with the data that were omitted from the paper. They explained that some of the omitted data were calibration data that were not independent from the data in the paper, and the subjects used their prerogative to omit some data they deemed not relevant to the anticipated readership of the paper. Their explanations were credible given the standards of data quality that are considered acceptable in this field. There is insufficient substance to pursue the allegation; accordingly, this case is closed and no further action will be taken.

¹ (footnote redacted).

² (footnote redacted).

³ This case is related to a previous case—M96090025—in our office.

⁴ (footnote redacted).

⁵ (footnote redacted).

	Agent	Attorney	Supervisor	AIGI
Sign / date				