

CLOSEOUT OF M96060016

On June 6, 1996, OIG received a phone call from the complainant¹ who alleged that the subject² had submitted falsified data in a NSF proposal³ that was eventually funded. The complainant claimed that several years earlier the subject had asked him to plot a curve based on four data points recorded on a sheet of paper. Unhappy with the appearance of the curve, the subject allegedly asked the complainant to "make it look better" by moving data points such that the peak appeared at a different coordinate value. The curve was supposedly manipulated so that it would appear to more closely agree with other recorded data obtained by using a different experimental method. The complainant then claimed that this falsified data was used in the NSF proposal. The complainant said that, as far as he is aware, other researchers on the project were neither involved nor made aware of the data manipulation. The complainant agreed to provide OIG with the original diskette on which the original and falsified data files were stored and a written version of his story.

Even after a reminder telephone call and letter, the complaint still had not provided any evidential material to support his allegations. Without evidence to support the allegation of data fabrication, OIG decided that this inquiry is closed and no further action will be taken in this case.

cc: Staff Scientist, Deputy AIG-Oversight, AIG-Oversight, IG

¹ (footnote redacted).

² (footnote redacted).

³ (footnote redacted).