

CLOSEOUT FOR M97110045

A program director of the Directorate for Biological Sciences¹ informed OIG of this allegation of misconduct in science on 19 November 1997. OIG met with the program director and another scientist² about correspondence the scientist received from a complainant.³ The complainant was apparently having difficulties obtaining data from a colleague⁴ whose research was funded by NSF.⁵

OIG communicated with the complainant over the course of several months to obtain more details on the specific data requested, the timing of the requests, and to obtain information on any communications with the subject. In addition, OIG provided copies of NSF's misconduct regulations and procedures. The complainant expressed concern about the categorization of the actions as misconduct, and suggested that he would contact the subject directly to try to obtain the information.

Subsequently, OIG contacted the complainant to determine the status of his requests for information from the subject. The complainant told OIG that his concerns about data sharing had been addressed. He explained that the subject assigned a post-doctoral researcher and doctoral student to work in cooperation with the complainant, using the data at issue. In addition, he mentioned that a cooperative relationship had been established, as evidenced by an invitation from the subject's University for him to be a visiting professor. OIG decided that the subject had addressed the major concerns raised by the complainant and there was no need for further inquiry to determine whether the allegation had substance.

This inquiry is closed and no further action will be taken on this case.

cc: Scientific Attorney, Integrity, I.G.

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