



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

## CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-19-0007-O

Page 1 of 1

A University notified us it had conducted an inquiry and concluded that an investigation was warranted into allegations that a postdoctoral researcher (Subject) falsified data related to genome sequencing. The University concluded the Subject falsified data in a published paper as well as in a manuscript being prepared for publication. The Subject left the University before it could complete its inquiry, and the Subject said that his departure should preclude the investigation. The University nevertheless continued, but the Subject did not agree to be interviewed or to provide any of the requested data. We issued a subpoena for the missing data, but the Subject said all data were in the University's possession, which the University disputed. After the University's investigation ended, it concluded the Subject committed research misconduct. Because the Subject had left the University, it could impose no action against him. It provided its report to us.

We reviewed the University's investigation report and supporting appendices and accepted it in lieu of conducting our own investigation. After some follow-up clarification, we concurred with the University that the Subject falsified data in the published paper and manuscript and committed research misconduct in doing so.

Based on the evidence, we recommended that NSF: make a finding of Research Misconduct, issued in a Letter of Reprimand; debar the Subject for 3 years; require completion of interactive responsible conduct of research training; and, for 5 years (concurrent with the debarment plus 2 years afterward): require Certifications and Assurances, bar the Subject from NSF participation as peer reviewer, advisor, consultant, and require a data management plan. NSF agreed with our recommendations and took the corresponding actions. Accordingly, this case is closed with no further action taken.