



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A04030011

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In response to an allegation¹ about the care of animals in an NSF funded project,² we reviewed the award for compliance with animal welfare requirements. The review not only showed that the institution³ had failed to have proper Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) approval, but that award and others had not been reviewed by an appropriate Institutional Review Board (IRB) for human subjects protections and had not submitted annual or final reports. We conducted a site visit to inspect the animal facilities and collect documentation related to IACUC and IRB review of the projects. The institution was able to obtain approval from the Office of Human Research Protections (OHRP) for its IRB before we arrived on campus and had commenced reviewing the projects. The site visit concluded with the institution's voluntary suspension of all work with animals on the NSF award until the IACUC had all the necessary Federal approvals. The institution also promised to correct the other issues. The NSF program officer⁴ agreed that the voluntary suspension would be an appropriate course of action under the circumstances.

While trying to get the approvals from the IACUC from NSF, the institution requested a change in PI and notified NSF that the PI⁵ was no longer an employee of the institution. Eventually, NSF⁶ approved a new PI,⁷ and the scope of the project changed to remove the work requiring IACUC approvals. All non-programmatic issues are now resolved.

Accordingly, this case is closed.

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