



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A10050037

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We assessed alleged financial improprieties and research misconduct in NSF awards to the Subject.¹ Financial issues alleged included: 1) funds paid to phantom workers and non-participants, but actually diverted into a discretionary fund for use by the Subject; 2) individuals actually working on the project either not paid or not paid in a timely fashion; 3) violation of the NSF 2/9 summer salary rule; 4) unallowable cost transfers between NSF awards; 5) unallowable travel expenses charged to NSF awards; and 6) false claims made to allow payments to consultants. Allegations of research misconduct include plagiarism, and data fabrication and falsification.

We examined financial documents for two relevant proposals,² including proposal budgets, award budgets and monthly summary ledger documents. All travel, tuition reimbursement, participant support, consultant, and salary expenditures were in proper order. There are no cost transfers into or out of these awards.

We examined documents claimed to support the allegations of research misconduct. No concerns about alleged systematic irregularities in a data set were shared between multiple collaborators over a period of years. There was no support for the allegations of data fabrication and falsification, and no evidence for plagiarism. We conclude that there is no support for the allegations of research misconduct.

Accordingly, this case is closed.

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