



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-03110066

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In September 2003, NSF-OIG received an allegation from a confidential source alleging that an NSF program director¹ attempted to solicit a bribe by offering the complainant a quid pro quo deal, whereby the complainant would include references to the program director's patents in his research results in exchange for the program director guaranteeing NSF funding of a research grant. The complainant also alleged that the subject had engaged in paid consultation work while working at NSF. A preliminary interview of the complainant identified that the alleged bribe was not witnessed by anyone other than he and the subject.

Although no evidence to support the original allegations was found during the preliminary investigation, several unrelated issues involving the subject were identified that required additional investigation. These issues included potential conflicts of interests with a for-profit company² and possible failure to report income and relationships on the yearly Financial Disclosure Reports submitted by the subject.

Our subsequent investigation documented the subject's relationship with this company and the compensation received, both directly and indirectly, by the subject. After reviewing our findings with the Designated Agency Ethics Officer (DAEO), it was determined that the subject's action with reference to this company did not constitute a conflict of interest. The DAEO also advised that, based on numerous exceptions allowed, the subject would not have been required to report the compensation that the company paid to others even if it were on the subject's behalf.

Accordingly, this case is closed.

[REDACTED]