



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I09070036

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OIG opened this investigation based on an allegation that a PI¹ at a university² had misappropriated grant funds for personal living and traveling expenses on an NSF award.³ In response to our query, the university credited the improper charges to the NSF award and worked with the PI to collect funds he had improperly received as reimbursement for personal living and travel expenses.

The university then reviewed the PI's other NSF awards and noted that the PI may have had a conflict of interests on another NSF award⁴ in which he subcontracted work to a company⁵ in which he had an ownership interest. The NSF OIG investigation determined that the PI had falsely represented to the university that the company was selected competitively for the subcontract on the NSF award at his previous university. The university cancelled the subcontract and returned the monies that had been charged to the grant, and the PI submitted his resignation to the university. At our request, the NSF program officer reviewed the annual reports submitted by the PI on the grant and found insufficient evidence that relevant work was completed on the grant project. The university returned the full grant amount to NSF and requested that the grant be terminated, which NSF did. The university also returned the balance of grant funds on the initial award in which the PI had improperly received reimbursement for personal living and travel expenses. The total amount returned to NSF as a result of this investigation was \$477,168.

No further investigative activity is warranted. This investigation is closed.

[REDACTED]