

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20550



Office of
Inspector General

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 12, 1993

FROM: [REDACTED] Special Agent

VIA: [REDACTED] Special Agent-in-Charge
Investigations Unit

SUBJECT: Possible Misuse of Funds by Grantee

TO: Case No. I93070025

In June, 1993, we received an allegation from a former colleague of Dr. [REDACTED] is the [REDACTED], and an NSF grantee. In 1984, Dr. [REDACTED] was awarded a grant of \$75,000; under the terms of the award, he was to produce an illustrated monograph on [REDACTED], a family of mosses. Though originally to have been completed by 1990, no monograph had been published as of 1993. The complainant stated that he believed Dr. [REDACTED] may have had no plan to produce the monograph, and instead may have kept the award funds, almost \$14,000 of which was for printing and publication costs.

We talked with Dr. [REDACTED] the program director who administered the award. Dr. [REDACTED] had no knowledge of the monograph's publication, yet had closed the award. However, after discussions with the librarian for the [REDACTED] and with Dr. [REDACTED] we found that the monograph was due to be sent to the printer in August, 1993, and will be available to the public in September, 1993. The book will be approximately 350 pages, and will be published as Vol. 32 of the [REDACTED]. Dr. [REDACTED] offered to provide a copy of the book to NSF free of charge; we relayed this offer to Dr. [REDACTED].

An outstanding issue in this matter was the approximately \$14,000 originally budgeted for printing and publication costs. Dr. [REDACTED] placed these funds on account with a printer in 1987. However, as the book was not ready for printing until 1993, the funds remained with the printer, presumably drawing interest. The grantee explained to us that this interest would be applied toward printing costs, which he expected to be greater than originally thought. We

discussed this matter informally with the Office of Audit; as the grantee did not personally gain from the placement of funds with the printer, and due to the limited sum involved, further expenditure of audit or investigative resources in pursuit of the matter was deemed inappropriate. We counseled Dr. [REDACTED] about continuing to monitor awards to ensure that the terms of the awards are fulfilled.

The terms of the award will be fulfilled with the publication of the monograph. As no further issues of concern were found, this case is closed.