

**NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION**

4201 WILSON BOULEVARD  
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22230

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OFFICE OF  
INSPECTOR GENERAL

**MEMORANDUM**

Date: February 2, 1999

To: File I98120037

Thru: Assistant Inspector General for Investigations

From: Special Agent

RE: Closeout-

**Background**

On December 15, 1998, NSF-OIG Investigations received a complaint from [REDACTED] Esq. of the U.S. Attorney's Eastern District of Missouri office. The relator alleged that [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] used his name and credentials to obtain federal funding for NSF, NIH, and VA grants. In addition, the relator alleged that [REDACTED] charged salaries to a NSF grant for individuals who were working on other grants. The majority of the complaint pertained to NIH grants. The relator states that he did not work on these grants. The [REDACTED] complaint was under seal until February 2, 1999.

**Investigation**

The investigation revealed that [REDACTED] had originally listed the relator on his proposal for NSF funding. However, the final budget approved by the agency did not contain the relator's name as an individual that would be working on the project. The relator was never listed as a PI or a Co-PI. The NSF Chief of Cost Analysis/Audit Resolution Branch/CPO reviewed the grant jacket with personnel from OIG and OGC and determined that there were no irregularities in the grant file paperwork with respect to information provided by the relator.

Due to the seal on the complaint, investigators were prohibited from contacting [REDACTED]. Without contacting [REDACTED] for accounting documentation, investigators were unable to determine if the NSF grant was charged for work the relator did not complete, or if salaries were charged to the grant for other individuals not working on the grant.

OGC contacted the AUSA in charge of the complaint and notified him that NSF is not interested in joining the complaint. In addition, OGC informed the AUSA that if NIH discovers misuse of NSF funds while conducting its investigation, NSF would at that time be willing to review the NSF related material.

### **Conclusions**

Based on the determination that there were no irregularities discovered with the NSF grant, and the fact that the seal on the complaint prohibited investigators from contacting the awardee institution to obtain further information regarding the use of NSF funds, this case is closed. However, this case may be re-opened at a future date upon notification by NIH or the AUSA that there was a misuse of NSF funds.

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