



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A13100086

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We assessed an allegation about intellectual property developed by the PI in a proposal submitted to and funded by NSF.¹ Concerns about intellectual property were not substantiated. We established that the PI's appointment at a foreign university was not disclosed in the biographical sketch of the funded NSF proposal, and a pending internal proposal of the PI was not listed in the current and pending support declaration of the funded NSF proposal. The PI confirmed that he held an appointment at the foreign university, but that he considered the appointment to be merely a visa formality for his sabbatical rather than a genuine appointment requiring disclosure on his biographical sketch. The PI stated that he did not think internal awards needed to be listed in this section of the proposal, and he considered the proposal and its subsequent funding as part of his employment. NSF instructions are clear with respect to external appointments and pending research proposals. We emphasized these instructions in a letter to the PI, and the need to provide accurate information to NSF.

This case is closed with no further action taken.

¹ [REDACTED]