



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-16-0122-O

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We initiated this investigation pursuant to an allegation that a Principal Investigator (PI) and his spouse, a Co-PI, mischarged domestic and foreign travel expenditures to an NSF award. The original proposal included some allocations for travel but the final revised budget and approved award eliminated travel completely. We reviewed initial referral information along with available award information obtained from internal and external sources. We also interviewed the former Program Officer (PO) on the award and asked questions related to PI travel and specifically inquired about notable conference-related expenditures charged to the award. The witness testimony corroborated the necessity for PI travel to attend and provide lectures at domestic and foreign conferences in order to fulfill award objectives. However, the PO identified possible concern with two conferences where the PI was a keynote speaker. We investigated the matter, and found evidence that on one occasion, the PI charged both the NSF award and the conference for his airfare and hotel accommodations, resulting in a duplicate reimbursement. Given the minor dollar value at issue, we referred this issue to OIG's Office of Audit for resolution.

This case is closed with no further action taken.