



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-20-0033-O

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We received an allegation that after serving as an NSF reviewer, the reviewer violated the confidentiality of NSF's merit review process by disclosing confidential information. The reviewer had a confrontational meeting with the PI at a professional conference over his critical review of the PI's proposal. He then sent an email to journal editors disclosing the existence of the proposal, naming the PI, an aspect of the proposed research focus, his opinion of a flaw in the proposed research, and the proposal's general ranking. The reviewer acknowledged he sent the email and breached NSF's confidentiality rules.

We concluded the reviewer violated NSF's confidentiality rules and recommended it take appropriate action. NSF agreed and prohibited the reviewer from serving as a reviewer, advisor, or consultant for 2 years. NSF advised the reviewer he should disclose to other Federal agencies for which he is requested to review proposals during this time period that he is presently barred from serving as a reviewer, advisor, or consultant for NSF.

This case is closed with no further action taken.