



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

## CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I14020007

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Along with another Federal agency, we investigated whether a professor who served as a PI and/or co-PI on multiple NSF awards did not properly disclose to NSF his affiliation with and research grants received through a university in another country. We determined that while the professor was on sabbatical leave from the awardee university, he held a paid tenured position at a university in another country and submitted proposals to NSF through the awardee university, several of which were funded. None of these proposals disclosed his sabbatical, position with the other university, or research grants associated with the other university; however, the NSF program officers managing these awards provided various reasons on why the disclosures would not have been material to their funding decision.

We determined no NSF funds were used to pay the professor's salary or expenses he incurred traveling to the other university. We also determined there was no apparent overlap in the NSF-funded research and the research funded through the other university. During the course of the investigation, the professor resigned from the grantee university and currently has no known affiliation with a U.S. university, and has no active NSF grants.

The other agency identified potentially fraudulent activity associated with reimbursements paid to the professor from the awardee university and another U.S. organization, completely unrelated to NSF. The professor was charged with one count of wire fraud in the appropriate U.S. District Court. The case went to trial; however, the jury was unable to reach a verdict, so the judge declared a mistrial. Shortly thereafter, the government withdrew its indictment.

Accordingly, this case is closed.