



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-19-0022-O

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We investigated an allegation that an NSF Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA) assignee was the Program Officer (PO) on an award to her own institution. We conducted interviews and reviewed NSF grant documents, personnel records, financial records, and travel documents. We did not substantiate the allegation.

While the initial allegation was unfounded, we identified and corroborated additional allegations that the professor violated NSF's IPA Independent Research/Development (IR/D) and telework policies. The IPA assignee took 10 unauthorized international trips spanning 71 NSF workdays that she claimed as IR/D time, leave, and/or telework. A third allegation that the professor failed to sever her affiliation with a foreign university following the issuance of the IPA award, as required by NSF's Office of General Counsel, was not substantiated.

The case was referred to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York and was initially accepted, but ultimately declined for criminal prosecution. NSF declined to pursue administrative action and the IPA award ended.

This case is closed with no further action taken.