



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-20-0078-O

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As part of a proactive review, we investigated a university and its Principal Investigators (PI) who did not disclose foreign-funded projects or organizational affiliations in their NSF proposals. As part of this multi-agency investigation, we reviewed foreign contracts, awards, and restricted gifts entered into or accepted by the university over the past 5 years. We found that the university was not in compliance with NSF's Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide requirement that PIs and Co-PIs disclose all forms of current and pending sources of funding, both foreign and domestic. We also identified a PI who was employed at a foreign university and received foreign research funding, neither of which was disclosed to NSF nor other federal agencies, as required. As a result of our findings and based on our recommendation, NSF suspended 14 awards associated with the investigation.

We referred the matter to the Department of Justice. As part of a civil settlement agreement, the university agreed to pay over \$1.9 million to resolve False Claims Act liability, and to work with NSF to address issues identified throughout the investigation.

This case has been closed, and no further action will be taken.