



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

## CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-19-0078-O

Page 1 of 1

We initiated this investigation after being notified that a principal investigator from an awardee institution was indicted on charges of wire fraud and program fraud for an alleged scheme to defraud NSF, another Federal agency, and a U.S. research university. Additional charges were filed against the professor for making false statements. The PI received Federal grant money, including salary, while he was employed by an overseas research university, an alleged conflict of interest that was not disclosed to the U.S. research university or NSF. The PI was convicted on one count of making a materially false statement in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Based on our recommendations, NSF suspended three awards involving the PI and issued a notice to debar him government-wide for 3 years.

The PI appealed his conviction and his proposed debarment. Ultimately, following the reversal of his conviction by the relevant U.S. Court of Appeals, NSF withdrew its notice to debar.

This case is closed with no further action taken.