# IG 101 – Introduction to the World of NSF OIG

Allison Lerner
Inspector General

National Science Foundation
Office of Inspector General

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# An Office of Inspector General (OIG) is an independent office that:

Promotes economy, efficiency, and effectiveness; prevents and detects fraud, waste, and abuse in agency programs and operations

Reports to head of agency (e.g., NSB) and Congress

Has full access to records and subpoena power

# Inspectors General throughout history

## 1778
George Washington appointed the first Inspector General (IG)

## 1978
The *Inspector General Act of 1978* created 12 Cabinet-level IGs

## 1988
1988 amendments expanded to 57 IGs and created NSF OIG

## 2023
74 IGs today

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# How IGs are appointed

- **Presidentially Appointed IGs**
  - Cabinet-Level departments and major agencies
  - President nominates and Senate confirms IG

- **Agency Appointed IGs**
  - Designated Federal Entities listed in the IG Act
  - Head of the agency appoints IG
  - NSB is head of agency for NSF

Selected "without regard to political affiliation and solely on the basis of integrity and demonstrated ability in accounting, auditing, financial analysis, law, management analysis, public administration, or investigations."

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# IGs are independent, transparent, and accountable

### Independent

- Separate relationship with Congress
- Separate budget
- Independent counsel
- Independent hiring and contracting authority
- Congressional notification required 30 days before removal for all IGs
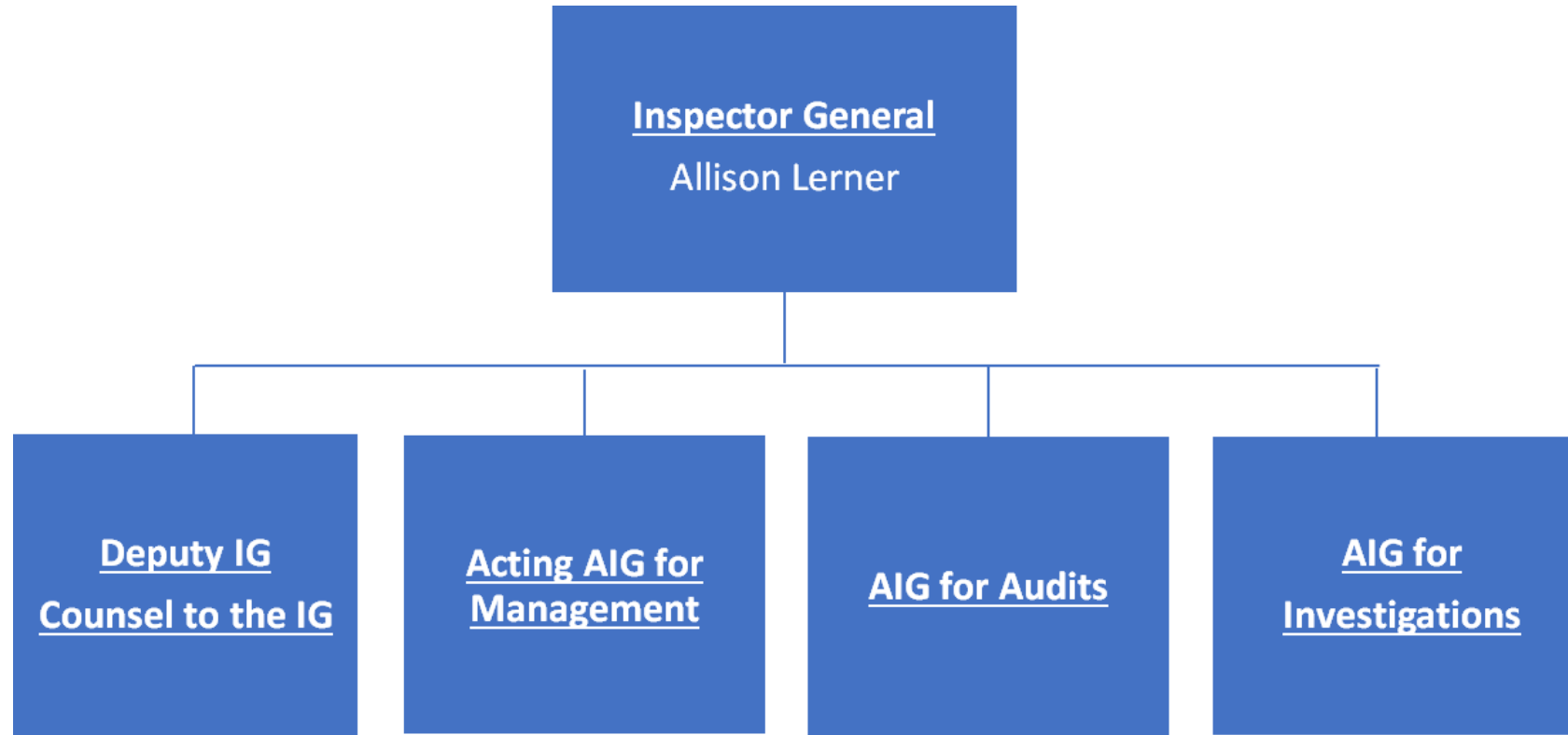- For agency-appointed IGs 2/3 vote required to remove

### Transparent

- Semiannual Reports to Congress
- Agency must link to OIG's website on its homepage
- IGs must post audit/evaluation reports to website
- All reports with recommendations sent to agency head and congress
- Reports also posted on Oversight.gov and PandemicOversight.gov

### Accountable

- Peer review for audits, evaluations, and inspections
- Peer review for OIGs with statutory law enforcement authority
- OPM and OMB oversight of SES systems
- OMB and agency head oversight of budget requests
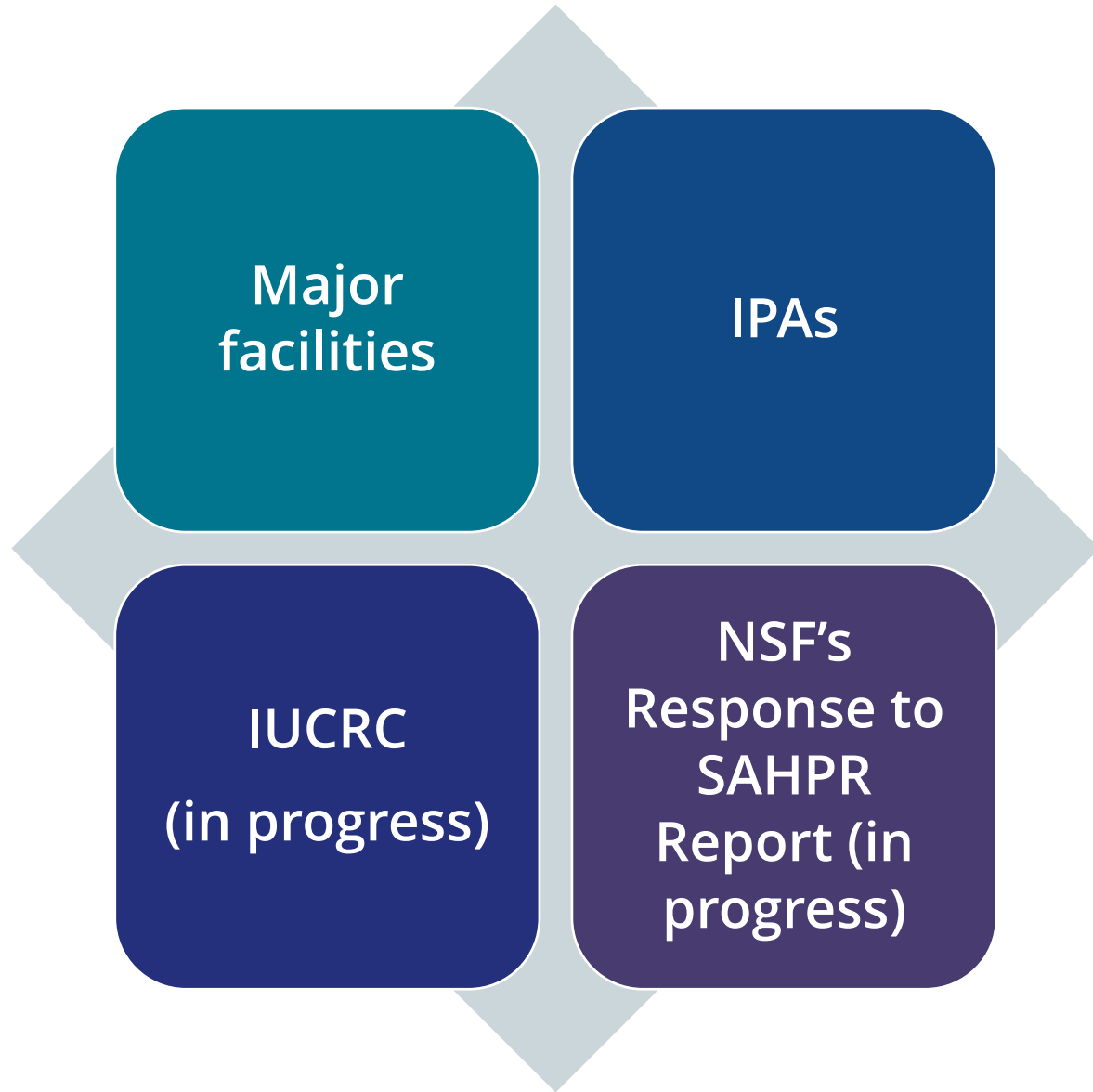- CIGIE's Integrity Committee investigates allegations of IG wrongdoing

# NSF OIG Office Structure



**Inspector General**
Allison Lerner

**Deputy IG**
**Counsel to the IG**

**Acting AIG for**
**Management**

**AIG for Audits**

**AIG for**
**Investigations**

# NSF OIG Funding

- Budget requests go through the board

- FY 2023 enacted = $23.39 million

- FY 2024 President's request = $26.82 million

- Average OIG funding is about 0.2% of NSF's appropriation

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# Audit Impact

**Major facilities**

**IPAs**

**IUCRC (in progress)**

**NSF's Response to SAHPR Report (in progress)**

# Audit Impact — Award Recipients

| Audits of Award Recipients (4/1/22 – 3/31/23) | |
|---|---:|
| Completed Audits | 16 |
| Audit Population of Costs Claimed | $424,702,797 |
| Total Questioned Costs | $1,354,431 |
| Number of Recommendations | 227 |

| Audit Resolution (4/1/22 – 3/31/23) | |
|---|---:|
| Audits Resolved | 14 |
| Questioned Costs | $3,897,555 |
| Sustained Costs | $3,559,786 |
| Sustention Rate | 91% |

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# Other Products

**Other Transaction Authorities**

**Promising Practices Report**

**White Paper on Law Enforcement Perspectives**

# Investigative Impact

**SBIR/STTR Fraud**

**Research Security**

**Research Misconduct**

**Investigative Recoveries**

**Administrative Actions Taken by NSF**

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# Investigative Impact

| Investigative Outcomes 4/1/22 - 3/31/23 | |
|---|---|
| Investigative Reports Issued to NSF Management for Action | 22 |
| Referrals to DOJ Criminal Prosecutors (individuals and entities counted separately for all referrals) | 7 |
| Indictments/Criminal Information | 2 |
| Criminal Convictions/Pleas | 2 |
| Referrals to DOJ Civil Prosecutors | 14 |
| Civil Settlements/Judgements/Compliance Plans | 1 |
| Research Misconduct Findings Issued by NSF | 7 |
| Government-wide Suspensions/Debarments/Voluntary Exclusions | 7 |
| Administrative Actions taken by NSF | 51 |
| Total Investigative Recoveries | $1,259,228 |

# How do we share what we do?

Issuing audit reports and routine activity memoranda

Issuing Management Challenges report and audit work plan annually and Semiannual Reports to Congress

Meeting with stakeholders like the NSB and Congress, and testifying before Congress

Sharing key findings in capstone reports (*e.g.* Promising Practices for award management report and Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research capstone report)

Conducting outreach to the research community and bimonthly articles in NCURA Magazine

# Questions?