



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A15030018

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We received a letter from an institution¹ indicating that serious Institutional Review Board (IRB) noncompliance was reported in relation to the IRB and the human subjects research work directed by two principal investigators (PIs).² A past NSF award³ was used to purchase an instrument⁴ utilized in similar research. The instrument was replaced by the institution as the PIs continued related research studies that led to the noncompliance, but the institution could not rule out the possibility that the NSF-funded instrument had been associated with the noncompliant activities as well. The noncompliance ranged from inadequate informed consent records, inadequate training records of research staff, data collection practices, and insufficient IRB review processes. The institution took corrective actions to ensure proper documentation of informed consent, research staff training, and data handling. The institution also revised the IRB practices and hired new staff to strengthen the IRB's review processes in evaluating research protocols. Our review of the matter concluded that appropriate actions were taken by the institution to ensure the proper oversight in NSF funded projects involving human subjects. Accordingly, this case is closed with no further action taken.

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[Redacted content]