



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A15030020

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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 review and approval actions by an IRB and to human subjects research work conducted by a principal investigator (PI)² who was sponsored under an NSF award.³ As the institution determined an IRB did not have the appropriate expertise to review and approve the research protocol supported by the NSF award, the research was temporarily suspended until a newly convened IRB assessed and approved the research study. The institution contracted an independent group⁴ to conduct IRB audits that resulted in the re-review and approval of research studies⁵ with the pertinent IRB and the imposition of continuing IRB review requirements upon other NSF supported⁶ research studies.

The institution also took numerous corrective actions that included remedial educational sessions for the IRB and grants/program staff, quarterly audits, and revisions of their IRB policies, procedures and quality assurances. Our review of the matter concluded that appropriate actions were taken by the institution to ensure to the proper oversight in NSF funded projects involving human subjects. Accordingly, this case is closed with no further action taken.

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