



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I130/50031

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This case was opened on a replacement Principal Investigator (PI)¹ due to concerns that the original Principal Investigator² may have only been a placeholder for the award³ until the replacement PI returned to the institution⁴. Once the individual completed their IPA agreement at NSF, they returned to their home institution and took over as PI on a grant that appeared to be purposely held until their return. The grant was awarded while the replacement PI was at NSF, which raised concerns that the award may have also been purposefully submitted and awarded at that time, in order to fix the award process.

We subpoenaed the institution and reviewed their award records, interviewed NSF officials and the original PI, spoke with the replacement PI and received documentation from them, and reviewed all relevant award records. We also brought this investigation to the attention of a civil AUSA, who ultimately declined to prosecute the case. We then issued a Questionable Administrative Practices (QAP) letter to the former NSF employee / replacement PI. There are no unresolved issues.

Accordingly, this case is closed.

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