



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A12100073

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An NSF program officer¹ notified us that a panelist² had been contacted by a PI³ before the panel met to encourage to him to read the proposal carefully. The panelist was concerned that his identity as a panelist and a designated reviewer of his proposal had been disclosed improperly to the PI, who he had spoken to only once before when the PI was trying to initiate a collaboration. The program officer also told us that another panelist⁴ reported after the panel deliberations that a second PI⁵ had approached her before the panel intimating knowledge of her assignment to review the proposal on the panel. All of the panelists knew the composition of the panel⁶ and the proposal assignments about one month prior to the panel's meeting.

We reviewed the possible academic, professional, and other connections between the two PIs and the membership of the entire panel to assess likely routes of disclosure of the panel assignments. We identified no substantive linkages to warrant further investigation when weighed against the privacy interests involved.

Accordingly, this case is closed.

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