



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

## CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I03110063

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This investigation was initiated as a result of Program Income review of conference and workshop grants. Two matters were referred for investigation.

- (1.) A workshop participant was provided \$1177.55 for participant support for hotel expenses, while other participants were provided approximately \$350.00. Investigation disclosed that the participant, who received the higher support, was a senior researcher from Europe, who was invited to arrive prior to the workshop and stay beyond the workshop so he could interact with students and researchers who sponsored the workshop. The Principal Investigator (PI) for the grant stated that request for this additional support came from another senior scientist who was being honored at the workshop. The request was presented to and approved by the workshop committee. There is no indication that the additional support was for personal benefit and the senior researcher from Europe did, in fact, stay and interact with students and researchers.
- (2.) The NSF Program Officer apparently participated in the workshop as an invited speaker. We reviewed NSF regulations and found no regulation that restricted the participation of an NSF Program Officer from attending and speaking at the workshop. While the Program Officer would have been involved with the decision to award the workshop grant, the decision to make the award, and the approval for the travel to the workshop, would have been approved by the Division Director.

Accordingly, this case is closed.