



## HHS OIG to Investigate NIH and Grantees' Conflict of Interest Policies

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) in the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has “recently begun a review” of how NIH “oversees conflict of interest on the part of its grantees,” the OIG announced. This is necessary because “the majority of NIH appropriated funds are distributed to NIH grantees who ... are not covered by the Federal ethics rules that apply to NIH intramural researchers,” the OIG said. The OIG plans to study “the extent to which NIH oversees grantee institutions’ financial conflict of interest issues.” In addition, OIG is “in the very early stages of a review into the operations of the NIH Division of Program Integrity” as well as the Ethics Office within the NIH Director’s Office. “This study will evaluate the effectiveness of NIH’s conflict of interest policies, procedures, and internal oversight mechanisms. “The OIG expects to issue a draft report in early 2008. The OIG also is continuing its investigation into 103 NIH researchers who may have potentially violated institute guidelines on conflicts of interest. Link: [http://energycommerce.house.gov/Press\\_110/110-ltr.HHS-OIG.pgf](http://energycommerce.house.gov/Press_110/110-ltr.HHS-OIG.pgf).