

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

**ACTION MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** AIGI

**File Number:** A-01110040

**Date:** March 22, 2002

**Subject:** Closeout

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We received allegations that the subject<sup>1</sup> took experiments from the complainant's<sup>2</sup> NSF proposals the subject received for review. First, it was alleged that the subject took an experiment (experiment 1) from NSF proposals (Proposals 1<sup>3</sup> and/or 2<sup>4</sup>), which the subject subsequently presented in a manuscript he planned to publish.<sup>5</sup> Second, it was alleged that the subject took another experiment (experiment 2) from another NSF proposal (Proposal 3<sup>6</sup>), which the subject discussed informally at a scientific meeting with the complainant.

We determined that the subject reviewed Proposals 1 and 2, but did not review Proposal 3. Our review of the first allegation, which included the examination of the complainant's and the subject's publications, professional society presentations, and other NSF proposals, showed that: 1) experiment 1 was not a unique approach to investigate the type of questions posed; 2) the information necessary to develop experiment 1 was publicly available prior to the subject's receipt of either proposal for review; and 3) the subject had already received an NSF award<sup>7</sup> prior to the Proposals that provided support for experiments that were very similar to those proposed by the complainant. We determined that there was insufficient substance to pursue the first allegation.

<sup>1</sup> [REDACTED] (the subject) is a [REDACTED]

<sup>2</sup> [REDACTED] (the complainant) is a [REDACTED]

<sup>3</sup> NSF proposals: [REDACTED] (Proposal 1), entitled [REDACTED] received by NSF on 11 August 1998 and sent to the subject for review on 29 October 1998.

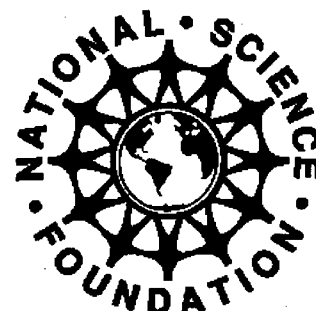
<sup>4</sup> [REDACTED] (Proposal 2), entitled [REDACTED] received by NSF on 11 February 1999 and sent to the subject for review on 19 March 1999.

<sup>5</sup> The manuscript was to be sent to [REDACTED]

<sup>6</sup> [REDACTED] (Proposal 3), entitled [REDACTED] received by NSF in August 2000.

<sup>7</sup> [REDACTED], entitled [REDACTED] was submitted by the subject on 9 January 1998.

|                   |              |             |             |      |
|-------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|------|
| Name:             | Prepared by: | Cleared by: |             |      |
|                   | Agent:       | Attorney:   | Supervisor: | AIGI |
| Signature & date: |              |             |             |      |



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Because the subject did not reviewed Proposal 3, we determined he could not have taken experiment 2 from the proposal and, therefore, there was no substance to the second allegation.

This case is closed and no further action will be taken.