NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

ACTION MEMORANDUM

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On 27 November 2001, we received two allegations of misconduct in science involving the subject's[1] declined NSF proposal.[2] First, the subject's proposal allegedly sought duplicate funding for projects he had already completed under a current NSF award.[3] The subject's annual report for the current award allegedly discussed the completion of projects he presented in the proposal as new work. Second, the subject's proposal was misleading because it allegedly presented a specific technique as new that was not new.

Our review of the first allegation, a duplicate request for funding, noted that

1) the subject received 3 awards over the past 9 years in support of the same ongoing research project;[4]
2) the subject's second and third awards were considered renewal awards by the program for the continuing ongoing research project; and
3) the subject submitted an annual report for the current award which discussed the results of projects he completed during that award period. The proposal contained similar projects; however these projects expanded upon his prior work and included the addition of a new variable and the modification of experiments.

[redacted] the subject, is a member of the [redacted]

[2] NSF proposal [redacted] entitled [redacted] was submitted by the subject on [redacted]

[3] NSF award [redacted] entitled [redacted] was submitted by the subject on [redacted] and was awarded on [redacted] as a continuing grant for 3 years.

[4] The subject's three awards for the long-term, ongoing research are: [redacted] entitled [redacted] [redacted] entitled [redacted] and [redacted] (the active award), entitled [redacted]

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

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We concluded that the proposal was an extension of the subject's previous ongoing work. There is no substance to the allegation that the subject sought duplicate funding for projects he had already completed.

Our review of the second allegation that the subject presented a technique as new in his proposal that was, in fact, not new showed that

1) the subject's proposal provided significant information about the technique as it related to his prior work, including a discussion on improvements made with the technique; and
2) the subject's proposal discussed the fact that he had presented information about his technique at a national meeting as well as a publication about it.

There was no evidence that the subject attempted to present the technique as new; rather, that he and his laboratory attempted to show how they had developed, and continued to develop, the technique. We concluded that there was no substance to the allegation that the subject presented misleading information about the technique in his proposal.

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