NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A04040015

The complainant[1] is concerned that a paper with a similar synthetic strategy appeared almost concurrently with her own synthesis paper[2], and is suspicious that the authors of the duplicative paper[3] were reviewers of her NSF proposals[4]. The allegation is breach of peer review confidentiality.

We compared the papers and determined that there was a similarity in the central strategy for achieving the targeted synthesis. Further, we searched the literature for related papers and found none, underscoring the uniqueness of the synthetic approach. We note that the chronological information published with each paper documents the anteriority of submission of the complainant's manuscript.

We examined the reviewer list and reviews for each of the complainant's proposals; we find no support for the allegation. We note that the same synthetic ideas put forward by the complainant may have been described in a PRF-ACS proposal likely to have been submitted in early 2003.[5]

Our inquiry shows no substance to the allegation of breach of peer review confidentiality in the NSF peer review process.

Accordingly, this case is ***closed***.

[1] redacted
[2] redacted
[3] redacted
[4] redacted
[5] redacted