



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-03010004

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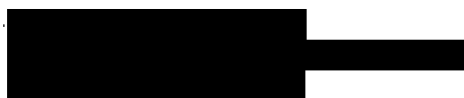
On January 27, 2003, information was forwarded to the Office of Inspector General regarding possible fraud in reference to a current Grant Proposal¹. This information was received from one of the prospective reviewers² of the Proposal. The complainant indicated that he could not conduct a review due to conflict of interest issues that he had. He added that the proposal was nearly identical to work he had been performing for the past 5 years and had also recently been awarded a grant from the U.S. Army to continue his research in the same area.

The complainant was contacted and stated that the reason he had questioned reviewing the proposal was that he did not want to be accused of having a conflict because of his similar research. During the interview, the complainant did not indicate that he felt his research or ideas were being compromised or used in the NSF Proposal.

Copies of both the NSF Proposal and the DOD Proposal, submitted by the complainant, were forwarded to an Investigative Scientist³ for review. The results of that review indicated that while both proposals were in the same area of development and there were overlaps in the approaches used, no textual link between the two proposals was identified.

Based on the information contained above, it is the conclusion of this investigator that the complainant initially expressed concern because of a fear of being accused of being biased in his review because of his competing work. Furthermore, at no time during this investigation did the complainant accuse anyone of stealing his ideas. Based on this information and the results of the Investigative Scientist's review of both proposals, there is no evidence of any wrong doing on the part of the subject submitting the NSF Proposal. The Program Officer has been notified of the outcome of our investigative findings.

Accordingly, this case is closed.



	Investigator	Attorney	Supervisor	AIGI
Sign / date				