

Closeout for M00010001

On January 6, 2000, a [REDACTED]¹ told us a PI² had submitted a FastLane proposal that contained allegations of plagiarism. In accordance with NSF's policy, we redacted the allegations out of the proposal. The PI listed three professors to be excluded from review: subject 1³ because he credited someone (subject 2)⁴ other than the PI as developing a particular idea; subject 3⁵ because he unethically used the PI's ideas; and subject 4⁶ because misrepresented the PI's results.

In a conversation with the PI, he said he was not making "real" allegations in the sense that he wanted OIG to investigate them; he merely wanted the PO and reviewers to be aware that distinguished scientists had made use of his ideas (albeit in his opinion inappropriately). In particular, his most specific allegation, against subject 1, was not about subject 1, but rather against subject 2 (who has not received any NSF funding and we therefore lack jurisdiction over). The PI did not provide any information detailed enough to allow further inquiry. In fact, his complaint could be characterized more as an authorship dispute with the PI believing he should have more credit from the subjects than he has received.

Given the lack of a serious complainant and specificity in the allegations, this inquiry is closed and no further action will be taken on this case.

cc: Integrity, IG

¹ (footnote redacted).

² (footnote redacted).

³ (footnote redacted).

⁴ (footnote redacted).

⁵ (footnote redacted).

⁶ (footnote redacted).