Closeout for M00020006

A Program Director[1] informed us of an *ad hoc* review containing allegations of misconduct. The reviewer[2] made comments to the effect that the PI[3] and Co-PI[4] of an NSF proposal[5] (the subjects) plagiarized an idea or ideas from one of his papers[6] (the reviewer's paper) into one of their papers[7] (the subjects' paper). He also suggested that the subjects may have committed this plagiarism from an unpublished version of his paper. The reviewer did not explicitly identify the plagiarized idea(s) or the evidence which led him to suspect the inappropriate use of premature access. Lastly, the reviewer recounted his belief that the subjects' paper misrepresented the published remarks of other authors.[8] The subjects' paper acknowledged NSF support.

A thorough comparison of the subjects' paper against the reviewer's paper revealed no support for an allegation of plagiarism and, as a result, no reason to consider the question of access or its implications.

The alleged misrepresentations were found to be differences of opinion involving the interpretation of data and, thus, not evidence of misconduct in science.

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

cc: Integrity, IG

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4 Footnotes Redacted
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