

CLOSEOUT FOR M91060034

This case was brought to the attention of OIG on May 7, 1991, by [REDACTED] the complainant, who is currently a faculty member at [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] did not wish to lodge an allegation; rather he was seeking information about the NSF Misconduct Regulation with regard to the failure of two collaborators of his to identify his NSF grants as funding sources in a journal article. The complainant told OIG that the article described, in part, research performed by a graduate student during the two year period that that student worked in the complainant's laboratory. That student's research was supported by the complainant's two NSF grants. The complainant told us that he had alerted the ethics committee at the collaborators' institution about this matter. That committee evaluated the allegation and found that no wrongdoing had occurred.

The complainant stated that he was satisfied with the ethics committee's findings and declined to identify the subjects in this case, for OIG. From the generalities provided by the complainant, OIG tentatively identified [REDACTED], a faculty member at [REDACTED], and [REDACTED], then a graduate student of [REDACTED] as the subjects of this case.

Although the failure to acknowledge NSF support violates the grant conditions under which the complainant received his award, this alleged simple omission of NSF support by the complainant's collaborators is not misconduct in science. In the absence of further information from the complainant, including the specific identity of the subjects, OIG will not pursue this allegation further.

We have closed this inquiry with a finding of no misconduct, and recognize that the complainant's actions have already alerted his collaborators to NSF's requirement for acknowledgment of grant support.

[REDACTED]
Staff Scientist, Oversight

Concurrence:

[REDACTED] 2/7/92
Senior Scientist, Office of Oversight

[REDACTED] 12/9/92
Assistant Inspector General for Oversight

[REDACTED] B Dec 7
Deputy Counsel to the Inspector General

cc: Assistant Inspector General for Oversight
Inspector General

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