

CLOSEOUT FOR M-93040029

On April 22, 1993, [REDACTED] program manager, [REDACTED] brought to OIG an e-mail letter from the complainant, [REDACTED], in which he alleged that a group of foreign scientists, the subjects, [REDACTED] in their review paper, [REDACTED] improperly cited and failed to cite work accomplished by other scientists. Subjects #1 through #5 were associated with the [REDACTED], while subject #6 was associated with [REDACTED]. The co-authored review paper presented no new research and did not cite NSF support.

The complainant alleged that the subjects had improperly cited a reference in their review paper. The subjects explained that the incorrect citation had been a clerical error, an error that they corrected in a subsequent journal article. Trivial error is not misconduct in science. The complainant also alleged that, in the subjects' review paper, they had failed to cite work accomplished by other scientists. OIG determined that this allegation involved a disagreement over selection of papers to be used as a reference associated with priority of discovery. A priority dispute such as this one is not considered misconduct in science. This issue is best resolved in the scientific journals.

In the process of determining that NSF support was not involved with the writing of the review paper, OIG determined that there also was no substance to the complainant's allegations. This case was closed.

cc: Staff Scientist, Deputy AIG-Oversight, AIG-Oversight, IG