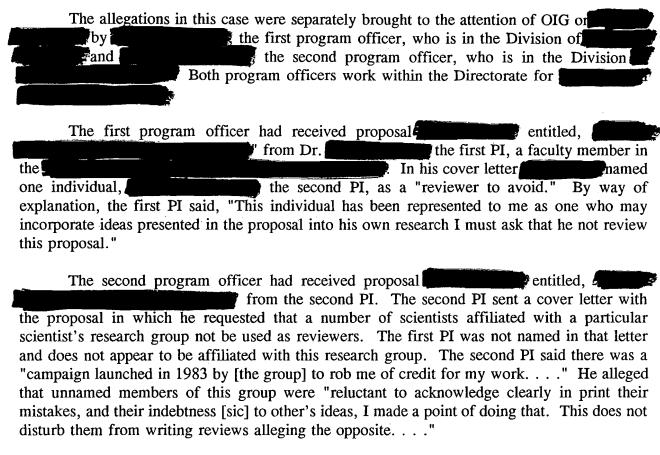
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NSF returned this proposal to the second PI for administrative reasons. The second PI corrected the administrative problems and resubmitted the proposal. The second proposal, had the same title as the first. A copy of the cover letter containing the second PI's allegations which accompanied the first proposal was attached to the second proposal.

OIG reviewed the materials supplied by the program officers and determined that the first and second PIs had made vague allegations of intellectual theft and failure to cite. OIG contacted each PI and requested additional information. The first PI said that he had not personally had ideas stolen by the second PI but had heard stories about incidents which had caused him to request that the second PI not review his proposal. He could not provide any specific information to support his concerns or that would allow OIG to pursue an allegation of misconduct in science. He referred OIG to another scientist who provided OIG with information that scientist characterized as mostly "hearsay" and without substantiation. An NSF program

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officer told OIG that the second PI was generally known in the community as one who rapidly jumps on the ideas of others and who publishes abstracts describing his incomplete proofs related to those ideas. OIG was told that scientists in the relevant community have reacted to the second PI's practice by not discussing their newest ideas with him. Although OIG was informed of the second PI's allegedly bad practice, no one could provided specific information about this practice so that an allegation of intellectual theft or failure to cite could be pursued.

When contacted, the second PI said that, about 5 years ago, members of the group had failed to give him appropriate credit for some of his work. He would not provide any details which would allow OIG to pursue the matter because he believed any action by OIG would damage his current relationship with the group. With regard to his statement that he had been accused of failing to cite others for their ideas he said that, while his work, as is others', is based on ideas circulating in the field, his development of any particular idea is his own work and he provides attribution to the correct sources.

OIG determined that the two PIs' allegations were reflective of professional disputes in this discipline but were so vague that they could not be pursued. None of the individuals OIG contacted provided OIG with sufficient information to inquire further into these allegations.

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

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