

Closeout For M93120062

[REDACTED], a program officer in the [REDACTED] program in the Division of Mathematical Sciences, brought this case to OIG on December 3, 1993. The previous day, he had received a telephone call from [REDACTED] of the [REDACTED] (the complainant), who had been asked to review a proposal written by [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] of the [REDACTED] (the subject). The proposal was [REDACTED], entitled [REDACTED]. The complainant alleged that a scientist they both knew had previously sent the subject a manuscript on a similar topic and that the subject's proposal contained ideas that derived from this manuscript. The complainant alleged that the subject had incorporated these ideas into his own proposal without attribution. [REDACTED]. The complainant elected not to review the proposal.

OIG informed the subject that it was alleged that he had committed misconduct in science by using ideas original to the manuscript author without giving him appropriate credit. In his reply, the subject explained that his earlier proposal [REDACTED], entitled [REDACTED] was submitted more than a year before he received the other scientist's manuscript. He said that this proposal contained the identical language that was in his recent proposal and that had prompted the allegation of misconduct in science. OIG examined the subject's earlier proposal and verified that the language in question was written before the subject had received the other scientist's manuscript and cannot have derived from that manuscript.

The subject also explained why he believed that the new ideas in the other scientist's manuscript were not relevant to his recent proposal and did not need to be cited. OIG determined that the subject's decision not to cite the manuscript appeared reasonable and that failing to cite it could not be considered a serious deviation from accepted practice.

OIG's inquiry revealed that there was no substance to the allegation. This case is closed and no further action will be taken.