

CLOSEOUT FOR M-94100035

In December 1994 OIG learned that the Office of Research Integrity (ORI) in the Department of Health and Human Services found that the subject, [REDACTED] a faculty member at [REDACTED] (the institution) committed misconduct in science. Specifically, ORI found that the subject misrepresented her academic credentials in three Public Health Service (PHS) proposals when she indicated she had an MD degree that she did not have. The subject executed a Voluntary Exclusion and Settlement Agreement with PHS in which she agreed to neither apply for Federal funds nor serve on PHS's advisory committees, boards, or peer review groups for three years.

OIG found that the subject had submitted two proposals to NSF, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] both of which were funded, and that she had served as a reviewer once in 1988.

OIG reviewed the subject's two NSF-funded proposals to determine if she had misrepresented her credentials to NSF. OIG determined that the subject has, in fact, received the educational degrees she listed in her Biographical Sketches in these NSF proposals. OIG noted that the subject provided some incorrect information in her Biographical Sketches, such as the date she received her Bachelor of Science degree. However, the incorrect information was not germane to her receipt of either award.

OIG noted that one of the award jackets contained two letters written by the subject to program officers on which she had indicated below her signature that she was an "MD Ph.D." One letter accompanied the subject's annual progress report and the other letter requested supplementary funding. The supplementary funding was not granted.

OIG determined that the subject's misrepresentations to NSF with her proposals were minor and gained her no apparent advantage. The subject's pattern of misrepresenting information in applications for Federal support suggested the need to protect Federal funds from possible future abuses. OIG concluded that PHS's actions effectively prevented the subject from receiving, or benefiting from, Federal support for three years and therefore adequately protected Federal funds.

This inquiry was closed and no further action will be taken.

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

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