CLOSEOUT FOR M-95060028

On 26 June 1995 [redacted] program officer [redacted] brought an allegation of misconduct in science to OIG's attention. The complainant, [redacted] was an *ad hoc* reviewer of NSF proposal [redacted] entitled [redacted] submitted by the subject, [redacted] a faculty member [redacted] In his NSF review, the complainant stated that he evaluated [redacted] (the other agency) proposal, entitled [redacted] a few weeks before he received the subject's NSF proposal. The complainant explained that, although the titles were different, the two proposals were virtually identical and proposed to do the same work. The complainant alleged that the subject had submitted equivalent proposals simultaneously to NSF and to the other agency without indicating he had done so.

OIG noted that the subject listed the other agency proposal in the Current and Pending Support section of his NSF proposal. The submission date for the other agency proposal showed that he submitted the two proposals concurrently. NSF requires PIs to indicate on the Cover Page of their proposals when they submit an equivalent proposal to other NSF programs or to other funding agencies. The subject did not indicate on the Cover Page of his NSF proposal that the other agency proposal was equivalent to his NSF submission.

OIG received a copy of the subject's funded proposal from the other agency. OIG compared the two proposals and found that, although most of the text was similar, the two proposals differed in the organisms to be studied and some of the goals to be accomplished.

At OIG's request, an NSF program officer, who was not involved in the initial evaluation of the NSF proposal, compared the two proposals. He determined that the two proposals were distinct scientifically and did not propose to do the same work.

OIG concluded that there was no substance to the allegation that the subject had submitted equivalent proposals simultaneously to NSF and to the other agency without indicating that he had done so. This inquiry is closed and no further action will be taken.

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