

## CLOSEOUT FOR M95110042

This case came to OIG on November 11, 1995, when we received a copy of a letter from [REDACTED], esq., an attorney for the [REDACTED] (the complainant) to Dr. [REDACTED], Vice-President for Research at the [REDACTED] (the university). The complainant alleged that Dr. [REDACTED] (the subject) plagiarized the concept for a new kind of equipment and incorporated the concept in a proposal to another government agency. The complainant alleged that the concept was developed by a scientist in the complainant's company. There is no evidence or allegation that a proposal containing stolen ideas was submitted to NSF. The letter claims that "the laboratory in which these devices are fabricated is being equipped with funds from the National Science Foundation."

OIG determined that the subject's only NSF award in the past fifteen years was an equipment grant to a different institution. The subject is listed as a co-PI on this award. In the final report for the award, there is no mention of the subject or of any work similar to that described in the allegation.

A researcher's use of equipment originally purchased with NSF funds is not, by itself and in the absence of a stronger relationship between the NSF equipment proposal or award and the alleged misconduct, sufficient to give OIG jurisdiction over an incident of alleged misconduct. In this case, we determined that OIG lacked jurisdiction over the alleged misconduct because the work in question was neither proposed to NSF nor carried out under an NSF award. This inquiry is closed and no further action will be taken on this case.