

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM FOR M97100031

On 9 October 1997, an NSF program director¹ brought an allegation of misconduct in science from the complainant² to OIG's attention. The complainant alleged that the subject³ used the complainant's idea⁴ in the subject's NSF funded proposal⁵ without properly citing the complainant or the complainant's collaborator⁶ as its source. Although the complainant said he had not seen the subject's NSF proposal, he explained that he had seen the abstract and was concerned the subject had not cited his or his collaborator's publications to appropriately acknowledge the idea's origin.

The program director told OIG that he reviewed the subject's proposal and observed that the subject had cited three publications⁷ authored by the complainant and/or his collaborator in the proposal about the idea. OIG's review of two of these publications confirmed that they discussed the idea. In addition, OIG noted that the discussion of the idea presented in the subject's proposal clearly acknowledged the complainant and his collaborator as its source.

OIG concluded that the subject appropriately cited the origin of the idea in the NSF proposal. There is no substance to the allegation that the subject used the complainant's idea without proper citation.

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

cc: Staff Scientist, Investigations, AIG Oversight, Attorney, IG

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Footnotes Redacted