

CLOSEOUT FOR M98050014

On 5 May 1998, an NSF program officer¹ brought an allegation of misconduct in science to our attention. The complainant,² who was an *ad hoc* reviewer of the subject's³ NSF proposal,⁴ alleged that the subject had plagiarized text from a publication⁵ into his proposal.

OIG noted that the subject's proposal contained about three sentences of text paraphrased from text from the publication in two separate sections of the proposal. The similar text described work already completed in a particular field of study. We noted that the publication from which the text was apparently copied was one author's compilation of the work accomplished by several panelists, including the subject, who attended a conference to discuss their work.

We determined that if the subject copied these three sentences of text from the publication into his proposal without appropriately distinguishing it from his own text, it would have been a deviation from accepted practices of the scientific community. However, in this case, we concluded that, even if the subject copied this text into his proposal, this was not sufficiently serious to continue this inquiry. We wrote to the subject informing him of the allegation and our decision to not proceed further.

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

cc: staff scientist, investigations, attorney, IG

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Footnotes Redacted