Closeout for M98100037

On [redacted] October 1999, a program manager[1] informed our office of potential intellectual theft issues. She said that a PI[2] had requested that another scientist not be provided his proposal for review because of a past instance of "academic theft." The PI told us that this instance was unrelated to NSF funding. He had described an experiment to the scientist who had apparently claimed to have tried unsuccessfully to repeat it. According to the PI the scientist did not have sufficient information to successfully repeat the experiment.

The scientist had wanted the PI to work in his laboratory and the PI, upon hearing about the failed repetition, decided not to join the scientist's laboratory. Subsequently, a proposal submitted by a colleague of the PI's upon which the PI was named as a contractor had received all good reviews except for one "crazy" review. The comments in the latter review were consistent with those the scientist had made to the PI.

We discussed the role of our office in addressing allegations such as these, which do not constitute misconduct in science. The PI told us he was not concerned about academic theft in connection with his NSF submission, but that he would alert our office to any such issues in the future.

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

Cc: Integrity, IG

[1] Dr. [redacted] is a program manager in the [redacted] Program in the Directorate for [redacted]

[2] Dr. [redacted], a faculty member at [redacted] University.