Closeout for M99020014

On [redacted] February 1999 we received information from a complainant[1] who alleged that another individual[2] had been inappropriately been named as one of three authors on the second edition of a book.[3] She and another person[4] had been named as authors on the first edition. According to the complainant the individual was to receive a percentage of the royalties for the his work on revising the book in anticipation of the publication of the second edition. The complainant said he had added material from a web page and an additional 45 pages of material that contained errors, and said that his contributions had no intellectual merit.

In a subsequent communication the complainant provided additional information about the authorship dispute and also alleged that the individual claimed to have an NSF grant. The materials supplied by the complainant show that her co-author on the first edition and the publisher[5] both felt that the individual's work merited authorship on the second edition. All of the authors agree the individual contributed to the second edition. The dispute is about whether the quality of the contribution merit authorship. This is not a issue of misconduct in science. Our review of NSF's database showed that the individual was a co-PI of a declined NSF proposal. The proposal was declined before the authorship dispute arose and does not appear to have connection to this matter. We determined that NSF did not have jurisdiction in this matter and closed this inquiry.

Cc: Integrity, IG

[1] Ms. [redacted]
[2] Mr. [redacted]
[3] [redacted]
[4] [redacted]
[5] [redacted]