

Closeout for M99030018

In March of 1999, OIG received allegations of misconduct in regard to two NSF awards (awards 1¹ and 2²) and a case was opened. The complainant³ alleged that three subjects (subjects 1⁴, 2⁵, and 3⁶) misrepresented biographical information in their relevant NSF awards. The complainant also alleged that a flyer, advertising graduate research fellowships funded through award 1, contained misleading information.

The complainant alleged that subject 1, the PI of award 1, made false publication claims in his biographical information in award 1. Subject 1 listed a total of nineteen publications. All of the publications listed by subject 1 were verified through various searches of the scientific literature. We conclude that subject 1 made no false publication claims in his biographical information in award 1.

The complainant alleged that subject 2, a principal faculty participant in award 1, made false publication claims in his biographical information in award 1. Subject 2's *curriculum vitae* listed a total of five publications. Three of the publications were verified through various searches of the scientific literature. The remaining two titles were listed as "in revision" with a particular journal.⁷ These titles have not been published in that journal. However, they were not described as published in subject 2's *curriculum vitae*. Based on our verification of subject 2's published publication claims, we conclude that no false publication claims were made in the biographical information about subject 2 in award 1.

The complainant suggested that we check the accuracy of the biographical information in award 2 about subject 3, the PI of award 2. Due to the lack of any specific allegation, we decided to verify only that biographical information for which known facts were independently accessible. The seven most recent publications listed by subject 3 were verified through various searches of the scientific literature. Also, we were able to confirm subject 3's B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees. We found no misrepresentations in subject 3's biographical information in award 2.

The complainant alleged that a flyer, advertising graduate research fellowships funded through award 1, contained misleading information because it lists faculty members who, under institutional regulations, cannot serve as research advisors to graduate students. The exact role of the listed faculty members in regard to prospective graduate students is not stated on the flyer. As the relevant NSF program announcement⁸ does not define the role of

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4 Footnotes Redacted

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the principal faculty participants in the project either, we conclude that no misleading information was stated on the flyer.

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

cc: Integrity, IG