Closeout for M99090048

On September 30, 1999, an Executive Officer[1] and a Program Officer[2] brought us copies of correspondence written by a reviewer[3] which contained allegations of misconduct in science. The reviewer alleged that a PI[4] made false statements in a proposal[5] to NSF and also that the PI committed plagiarism from a Ph.D. dissertation[6] into a paper[7] published in 1999.

The reviewer asserted that the opening statement in the PI's proposal was false. The statement declares a new phenomenon which the PI claims to have discovered. In the reviewer's opinion, the statement is false because he thinks the phenomenon was discovered first in his own research program. The reviewer also disclosed his belief that this discovery was made independently by the PI. As this matter is essentially a priority dispute, further inquiry is not warranted.

In a letter to us, the reviewer described six observations and ideas that he believes were plagiarized from the dissertation into the PI's 1999 paper. The reviewer provided the PI with a copy of the dissertation in August 1998. All six of the allegedly plagiarized observations and ideas appeared in a 1998 paper[8] written by the PI and submitted in May 1998. The 1998 paper was referenced by the PI in his 1999 paper. As the 1998 paper was submitted by the PI prior to receiving the dissertation from the reviewer, we concluded that the six observations and ideas were not plagiarized from the dissertation provided by the reviewer.

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

cc: Integrity, IG

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4 Footnotes Redacted
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