



CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A-03040016

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On 23 April 2003, we received an allegation that a funded NSF proposal (funded proposal)¹ contained ideas taken from one or both of two scientists' Collaborative NSF proposals submitted over a 2 year period.² NSF's Proposal and Award System (database) indicated that the PI on the funded proposal received the most recent Collaborative proposals for review. Consequently, the PI was considered the subject in this case.³

Our review of this matter found that the scientists published two articles⁴ several years after they submitted their most recent Collaborative proposals. These articles, which contained discussions of the ideas presented by the scientists in the most recent Collaborative proposals, were cited in the funded proposal. We also observed that the funded and the most recent Collaborative proposals had different project foci.

We concluded that because 1) the scientists' presented their ideas in publications that were appropriately cited in the funded proposal, and 2) the project foci were different for the proposals, there was no substance to the allegation that the subject inappropriately used ideas from the scientists' Collaborative proposals in the funded proposal.

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

¹ NSF funded proposal [REDACTED], entitled "[REDACTED]" on [REDACTED], was submitted by the subject, [REDACTED] (PI), and [REDACTED] (co-PI)

² NSF [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], entitled "[REDACTED]" were submitted by [REDACTED] (PI) from the [REDACTED] on [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] (PI) from [REDACTED] on [REDACTED]. In addition, these same two scientists submitted NSF [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] a year earlier. NSF records show that the PI, the subject, was the only person to receive the most recent [REDACTED] proposals for review.

³ See footnote 1.

⁴ The papers are: "[REDACTED]" [REDACTED], and [REDACTED].