



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

## CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A-04010002

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It was alleged the subject's recent NSF proposal<sup>1</sup> listed a publication in his Biosketch that suggested he was a co-author on the publication when he was not. Our initial review showed the subject's Biosketch contained a publication<sup>2</sup> presented such that it suggested he was a co-author, which he was not. Further, we noted that the actual first author for the publication had been left off the citation. Finally, we found that two of the subject's earlier declined NSF proposals<sup>3</sup> contained the same publication in his Biosketches presented in exactly the same way.

We wrote to the subject who responded that he had made a mistake. He said that he had cut and pasted the citation for the publication from the first author's web page, which did not contain the first author's name, a fact that he did not notice when he did it. With his subsequent NSF proposals, he incorporated the same Biosketch without review. Further, he explained that he included the publication in his Biosketch to show he had done research work associated with the publication. He said he had not intended to suggest he was a co-author. He sent an email to his mentor and the first author explaining the situation.

We determined that the subject's actions were a departure from accepted practices of the scientific community, but not a significant departure. We wrote to the subject advising him to be more diligent in the future in his review of what he included in his proposals. Accordingly, we closed this case and no further action will be taken.

<sup>1</sup> NSF Proposal [REDACTED], entitled "[REDACTED]," was submitted by the subject, [REDACTED], as the sole PI.

<sup>2</sup> "[REDACTED]"

<sup>3</sup> NSF proposal [REDACTED], entitled "[REDACTED]," submitted by the subject as the sole PI; and NSF proposal [REDACTED], entitled "[REDACTED]" submitted by [REDACTED] (PI), the subject, and [REDACTED] (co-PIs).