



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A-04040016

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We received the allegation that a recent NSF proposal submitted by subjects 1 and 2¹ included a research project taken from a scientist without his permission. Subject 1, who worked with the scientist on the project for about 4 years, first as a post doc and later as a researcher, submitted the NSF proposal to continue the ongoing research work. Subject 2 was subject 1's co-worker who agreed to work with her on the continuing project.

We learned that, together, the scientist and subject 1 submitted and received a grant from another funding source to support the project several years earlier. Further, the scientist and a colleague submitted an earlier NSF proposal to fund the project that stated in the proposal subject 1 helped to develop the ideas presented and to write the proposal. Also, subject 1 authored and co-authored several papers with the scientist about the project's results prior to submitting the recent NSF proposal. Finally, information provided by the scientist to our office showed that subject 1 repeatedly requested that the scientist be a PI, co-PI or, at least, an informal collaborator on the continuing project, an offer that was refused by the scientist.

We concluded that subject 1 had every right to continue a project that subject 1 had participated in through the submission of proposals for the project, the receipt of a grant to support the project, and the publication of results with the scientist. Further, the scientist elected not to continue research on the project at this time despite repeated attempts by subject 1 to include the scientist.

There is no substance to the allegation that subject 1 or subject 2 inappropriately used the scientist's project. This case is closed and no further action will be taken.

¹ NSF proposal, [REDACTED], entitled "[REDACTED]" was submitted by subject 1, [REDACTED] and subject 2, [REDACTED].