



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

## CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A-08040023

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We received an allegation that someone else's (the complainant's) idea<sup>1</sup> appeared in the subjects' NSF proposal.<sup>2</sup> Our review, however, showed that the idea was not unique to the complainant. Further, it appeared in the subjects' NSF proposal as a result of a suggestion by a reviewer on one of the subjects' earlier similar NSF proposals.<sup>3</sup> As a result of this suggestion, the subjects included the idea in their subsequent similar NSF proposal submissions.

We determined that there was no evidence the subjects had taken the complainant's idea. The idea already existed in the field and had been included in the subjects' proposal because of a reviewer's suggestion.

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

