



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-16-0120-O

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We received an allegation that a PI¹ (Subject) on an NSF Proposal² misrepresented the order of authorship for several articles in his proposal's biosketch by switching the order of the first two authors, listing himself first. We note the articles themselves include footnotes indicating the first two authors should be considered equal, and the Subject lists himself first on these articles on his university's website. It appeared the Subject considers "co-first" authors to be interchangeable in citation.

Importantly, the Subject also included a notation for some articles on his NSF biosketch that indicated they had two or more equal authors. This was done for all articles alleged to have been misrepresented.

Although the Subject changed the published authorship order, he included a type of caveat for reviewers; further, the NSF biosketch is not the only place where he lists authors differently from the published order. Our conclusion is that the allegation of misrepresentation to reviewers does not warrant further inquiry.

This case is closed with no further action taken.

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