

Closeout of M90080032

This case was brought to OIG on August 3, 1990 by [REDACTED] a program officer in the Division of [REDACTED]. He had received an allegation from a proposal reviewer, [REDACTED] concerning the PI on a proposal under review, [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] and Medical Center, [REDACTED]. The allegation was that it seemed likely that the proposal had actually been written by a senior colleague of the subject.

OIG learned that a similar proposal had previously been submitted to the National Institutes of Health by the senior colleague. In addition, after her NSF proposal the subject had submitted another proposal to NIH under her own name that was similar to both the NSF proposal and the earlier NIH proposal. These facts were verified by phone conversations and letters to the subject and senior colleague. OIG also learned that the proposal to NSF did not mention the NIH proposals on its Cover Sheet or on the form "Current and Pending Support for Research and Education in Science and Engineering", nor was the program officer told of them informally.

OIG's finding was that the senior colleague had written a large part, but not all, of the NSF proposal, and that the subject should have made that clear. In addition, the subject did not meet NSF requirements when she failed to notify NSF about the NIH proposals. These are faulty practices that fail to give needed information to the reviewers and program officer. However, OIG did not judge that they were serious violations of the regulations for misconduct in research, and did not propose further inquiry or a formal investigation. OIG spelled out its concerns in a final letter to the subject and urged better compliance in the future. The case was then closed.

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[REDACTED]  
March 18, 1991

Conew: James J. Zurlo  
3/18/91

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