

Closeout of M90100035

On 9/25/90, [REDACTED] (Div. Dir. [REDACTED]) and [REDACTED] (Program Dir., [REDACTED] Program) met with [REDACTED] to tell him about this allegation regarding proposal number [REDACTED], entitled "[REDACTED]" from [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] University [REDACTED] (the subject). One reviewer to whom [REDACTED] sent the proposal accurately observed that "in the background section [the subject] has copied verbatim several paragraphs from the introduction of a recent anti-peptide antibody structure determination article by [REDACTED] (the article). The article is entitled "[REDACTED] resolution]".

I wrote to the subject 1/4/91, describing the copied material and requesting an explanation. In his written reply, he expressed his extreme embarrassment at his "carelessness". He explained that he had finished most of his proposal when the article came out. He said that, as he acknowledged in his proposal, the article was "the first account of an [REDACTED] structure"; he therefore felt that he must "hastily rewrite" the background portion of his proposal "to highlight the work of" the authors of the article. He said that he knows that he

made a 'faux pas'. I should have incorporated the information from the article ... by reinterpreting it in my own words and citing the paper earlier and more directly as the source. ... I can only say that my intention was to pay tribute to the work of [the authors of the article], and certainly not to take credit for it. ... I admit my error in quoting directly without proper citation and I am deeply sorry.

The subject is clearly aware of what is proper regarding copying and attribution, and of his error in this matter. At my suggestion, the subject sent a letter to the program director requesting that his proposal be modified to include explicit indication that the copied material was copied and properly citing its source as the article. Because the copied material was all in the background portion of the proposal and the copied article was properly credited for its scientific contribution, I feel this case should be closed. I will notify the subject and the PD by telephone.

