

Closeout of M91020013

On February 25, 1991, OIG received an allegation about false claims of authorship in connection with proposal number [REDACTED] submitted to the Division [REDACTED], Directorate of [REDACTED]. This allegation was brought to our attention in the form of a memorandum, dated [REDACTED], addressed to the IG from [REDACTED], Acting Division Director, [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] received a letter from [REDACTED] (the complainant) of [REDACTED], one of the panel reviewers of the above mentioned proposal. The complainant alleged that two references in the proposal incorrectly listed [REDACTED], PI of the proposal (the subject), as an author of each of these papers. On [REDACTED] asked the subject for an explanation regarding this allegation. The subject readily and voluntarily admitted that he is not a co-author of these papers. At the request of [REDACTED], on [REDACTED] the subject and the Co-PI of the proposal sent letters to OIG explaining the circumstances that led to the two errors in the reference in the proposal. In his letter, the subject wrote: "[T]his mishap is a result of typographical errors in developing the manuscript. We take full responsibility for the final manuscript and our oversight in picking up this critical error during proof reading We are sending a letter to the program director alerting him to this error. We will ask him to correct all remaining copies of this proposal at [NSF]. We would also be willing to write letters to the co-authors on the two references offering an apology for this oversight if you wish".

The subject's Co-PI wrote: "I assure you that there was no attempt to misrepresent the work mentioned in references 14 and 15; this was only a typographical error when entering the references".

The subject and his Co-PI are clearly aware of their errors in this matter. Since their letters present satisfactory explanation of the situation indicating no misconduct, the case can now be closed.

[REDACTED]
22 May 1991
[REDACTED]

CC: Inspector General (IG)
Assistant IG for Oversight