

Closeout of M91020014

This case came to OIG on February 20, 1991 from [REDACTED] in the [REDACTED] Program, [REDACTED]. He forwarded to us a letter originally sent to another program officer by the complainant, [REDACTED] in the Department [REDACTED]. His allegations involved the subject, [REDACTED] at the [REDACTED], and another investigator, acting independently.

Both of these individuals were accused of using information they acquired as reviewers to guide their own experiments, and also of obstructing the review of the complainant's work. Although the complainant initially promised to provide specific information as to what materials of his were used illegitimately and how, and where the results were published, he eventually refused to do so. His reason was that he was afraid of getting involved in a messy misconduct case, which might involve retaliation against him as a whistleblower. Without his information, this case would require a broad and undirected search that is beyond the resources of OIG.

Another consideration in this case is that the subject is a foreign investigator working in a foreign country, who has never applied for NSF funding. In view of this, there is little that NSF could do either by way of investigating the case or by way of imposing a sanction if misconduct were found.

For these reasons, the case is being closed without further action.

Donald E. Buzzelli

Donald E. Buzzelli
November 13, 1991

Concur: James J. Zurek
11/25/91

Noted: PYS 11/27/91