

CLOSEOUT ON CASE M92020004

This case was brought to the attention of the OIG by the complainant, [REDACTED] a graduate student [REDACTED]. The complainant alleged that the subject, [REDACTED] a fellow graduate student [REDACTED] misrepresented her ethnic origin on her combined NSF Graduate and Minority Fellowship application. Specifically, the complainant alleged that the subject had identified herself as Hispanic on the application, when in reality she had only European Spanish heritage through her mother or one or both of her grandmothers.

The subject was awarded an NSF Graduate Fellowship [REDACTED]. Her fellowship application was reviewed. On Part One of the application, she had self-identified as "Hispanic, other." Information on racial and ethnic self-identification was obtained from the National Science Foundation, The Office of Personnel Management, the Office of Management and Budget, the Bureau of the Census, and the Department of Education. Each office indicated that individuals of Spanish descent are considered "Hispanic, other." Therefore, the allegation has no substance because individuals of Spanish descent can correctly self-identify as Hispanic.

There is no basis for an allegation of misconduct, and this case is closed.

[REDACTED]

Staff Scientist, Oversight

Concurrence:

Donald E. Buzzelli 9/14/92
Donald E. Buzzelli
Senior Scientist, Oversight

James J. Zwolenik 9/17/92
James J. Zwolenik
Assistant Inspector General for Oversight

Montgomery K. Fisher 9/14/92
Montgomery K. Fisher
Assistant Counsel to the Inspector General

cc: Assistant Inspector General for Oversight
Inspector General