

CLOSEOUT FOR M92060021

This case was brought to the attention of OIG by [REDACTED], a Program Director in the [REDACTED] Program, on [REDACTED]. The complainant, [REDACTED] had been asked by NSF to review proposal [REDACTED] submitted by the subject, [REDACTED]. The complainant alleged that a manuscript co-authored by the subject that appeared as an appendix to the proposal contained several figures which had been originally published and copyrighted by the complainant. The complainant stated that the subject had not sought permission to reproduce the figures from her or the original publisher and had thereby infringed on the copyright on the figures.

The complainant is an [REDACTED] at [REDACTED], the subject is a young faculty member at [REDACTED], [REDACTED]. The subject's proposal described a research project to be conducted in a senior PI's laboratory at a research institution. The project was designed to expand the subject's research experience in her field.

OIG found that each of the figure legends contained a correct citation to the original work; therefore the material could not be considered to have been plagiarized from the complainant's published paper. There was no indication in the subject's manuscript that permission to reproduce the figures was being sought, or had been obtained, from the publisher. Therefore OIG contacted the subject to clarify this issue.

The subject stated that the figures were copyrighted and permission to reproduce the figures was being sought from the publisher. The material would not be used in the final publication if permission were denied. Subsequently, the subject informed OIG that the publisher had not responded to her request to reproduce the figures; however, at the request of reviewers the section containing the figures had been deleted from the final version of the manuscript. OIG confirmed that the figures had been deleted in this version of the manuscript.

No substance was found for an allegation of plagiarism because the subject had carefully cited the original publication as the source for the figures reproduced in an early version of her manuscript. The absence of the reproduced figures in the final draft of the manuscript eliminated any concern about copyright infringement. This case is closed without a finding of misconduct.

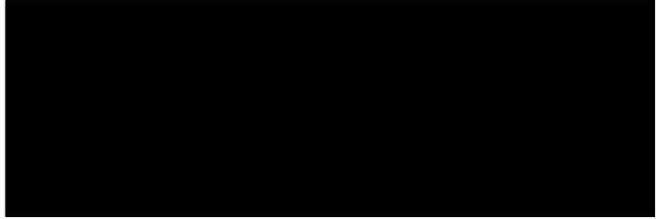
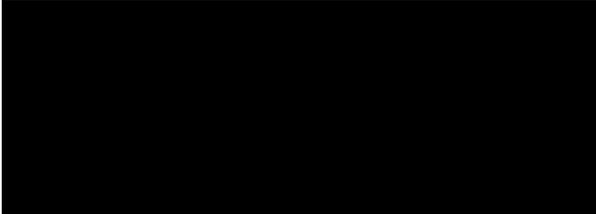
[REDACTED]

Staff Scientist, Oversight

March 30, 1993

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Concurrence:



cc: Assistant Inspector General for Oversight
Inspector General