



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-16-0025-O

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NSF OIG received an allegation of plagiarism in a collaborative NSF proposal (Proposal 1) submitted by a PI and two Co-PIs. Our inquiry determined the PI or one of his lab members was responsible for Proposal 1's copied text, and that another NSF proposal he submitted as sole PI (Proposal 2) also contained copied text.

We referred the investigation to the PI's University. The University concluded that plagiarism occurred in Proposals 1 and 2, but that the PI was not himself responsible for the plagiarism. The University, however, concluded that the PI did not sufficiently review the content of proposals bearing his name and did not adequately instruct his research group about responsible conduct of research. The University required that the PI and his research group complete, within a three month period, two forms of responsible conduct of research training.

We concurred with the University's report. Based on the totality of the evidence in this case, we generated questionable research practice letters to the PI and Co-PIs, reminding them of their responsibility to ensure NSF proposals bearing their names contain only appropriately cited text.

Accordingly, this case is closed with no further action taken.