



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

## CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A15090054

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NSF OIG received an allegation of plagiarism in a Proposal submitted by a PI (Subject). We reviewed the Proposal, concluded it warranted an investigation, and referred the matter to the University.

The University concluded, by a preponderance of the evidence standard, that the Subject intentionally committed plagiarism, which it deemed a significant departure from accepted practices. It further found a pattern of plagiarism in two other proposals submitted by the Subject to another federal agency. The University required the Subject to take responsible conduct of research training, be mentored by a senior faculty member, and, for three years, submit all proposals for review. Further, the University said it would ensure that all of the Subject's students also completed RCR training.

Our investigation concluded the Subject acted with a knowing intent. Our review of the policies of professional societies and journals with which the Subject self-associated determined that the Subject violated the accepted practices of his research community by not properly acknowledging text authored by others. Therefore, we concluded, by a preponderance of the evidence standard, that the Subject knowingly committed plagiarism; that his plagiarism constituted a significant departure from the accepted practice of his research community; and hence, that the Subject committed research misconduct.

We recommended that NSF make a finding of research misconduct against the Subject; send him a letter of reprimand; require he submit certifications and assurances for one year; and require he certify completion of an interactive responsible conduct of research training program within one year. NSF's Acting Chief Operating Officer concurred with our recommendations and took action to implement them, which included requiring the Subject to submit certifications and assurances for two years, rather than one.

Accordingly, this case is closed.