



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

## CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A13020032

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We identified a proposal<sup>1</sup> with possible plagiarism during a proactive review of awarded NSF proposals. Closer examination of the allegation revealed that the largest single source document identified was a publication authored by the sole PI<sup>2</sup> on the NSF award. The remaining sources of significance were authored by the subcontractor referred to in the proposal as the “other PI.”<sup>3</sup> The text copied from the “other PI’s” was not enclosed in quotation marks or offset in any manner to indicate it was not the PI’s original work. However, documentation in the award file demonstrated that the reviewers and the NSF program officer recognized and treated the “other PI” as a co-author of the proposal. Thus, there is insufficient evidence to support an allegation of plagiarism or that NSF’s merit review process was otherwise misled.

Accordingly, this case is closed.

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