



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A14020003

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We received an allegation that a PI¹ plagiarized from a paper² into his NSF proposal³. The PI told us he had been impressed with the paper and wrote detailed notes on it to discuss in his proposal. He acknowledged his wording was too similar to the paper's, and the end result was unprofessional and inappropriate. He said he did not intend to plagiarize: he referenced and cited the paper in the proposal, and he suggested to NSF that two of the paper's authors be considered as reviewers. Given the PI's explanation, together with the small amount of copied text, we conclude the PI's actions do not constitute research misconduct. We sent the PI a letter advising him to be more cautious when making notes and relying on them in his composition. According, this case is *closed* with no further action taken.

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