



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A14020011

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NSF OIG received an allegation that the research proposed in an NSF proposal¹ was substantially similar to work previously done in an NSF-funded project. Upon investigation, we learned that the co-PI submitting the proposal was a former post-doc in the research group that carried out the NSF-funded project. Although the proposed work could be viewed as a logical extension of the work done by the research group, the proposal covers a distinct subject matter and does not propose performance based on computational products developed by the group. On the other hand, certain circumstances suggest that the proposed work may in fact be designed to rely on the research group's work, but the circumstances are not conclusive at this point. Because the likelihood that the proposed work will rely on the research group's computational work is currently speculative, we concluded that the allegation did not contain any actionable research misconduct as defined by NSF regulation².

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

¹

[REDACTED]

² 45 CFR part 689.