



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A12050037

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Closeout

We reviewed an allegation that a researcher¹ (Subject) submitted an NSF proposal to conduct research the Subject had already completed and published as an article in an academic journal. The Subject also conducted the research using another researcher's data² without permission. The NSF proposal was a verbatim copy of the Subject's article, except the Subject changed past-tense verbs to future tense and replaced numerical results with the letter 'x' so that it appeared the results were not yet obtained. A large amount of the text in both the proposal and the article was also plagiarized. The proposal was not awarded.

During our investigation, we discovered the Subject had also fraudulently submitted ten additional proposals to NSF in which the Subject sought funds for work that had already been completed and submitted to, or published in, academic journals. None of these proposals were awarded. In these instances the Subject also manipulated the text to make it appear the work had not yet been conducted. These efforts indicated that the Subject's acts were committed intentionally, with an awareness that NSF does not fund work already completed.

We referred the matter for criminal prosecution, and the matter was declined in lieu of administrative action by NSF, which debarred the PI for three years.

This case is closed with no further action taken.

¹ [REDACTED]

² The data belonged to his former Ph.D. advisor.