



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A12100079

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We received an allegation that a PI (Subject¹) had used classified information in an NSF proposal² without authorization. We reviewed the matter and found no evidence to support that allegation. However, in reviewing the Subject's NSF proposal submissions, we found that he plagiarized a very large amount of text into nine proposals,³ four of which were resubmissions containing much of the same copied text. In six of the proposals, the Subject proposed to complete research that had already been completed and published by other researchers. He described his proposed tasks using largely the same language that the sources used, slightly modifying language such as acronyms in an attempt to conceal the copied ideas.

His institution did not have a policy for investigating research misconduct, so we performed the investigation ourselves and concluded that the Subject intentionally plagiarized and committed intellectual theft. We recommended, and NSF imposed, a 2-year debarment from all federal funding, a finding of research misconduct, a letter of reprimand, completion of a course in the Responsible Conduct of Research, 2 years of certifications and assurances following the debarment, and a 2-year ban on serving as a reviewer following the debarment.

This case is **closed** with no further action taken.

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