



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A15080047

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A University conducted an inquiry into allegations of plagiarism in a manuscript submitted for publication that stated it included work supported by an NSF-funded center (Center). It determined the manuscript contained copied material, and that the manuscript's First Author (Subject) was responsible. We referred the investigation to the University.

The University's investigation concluded, based on a preponderance of the evidence, that the Subject intentionally committed plagiarism, deemed a significant departure from accepted practices. The University required that a letter of reprimand be placed permanently in the Subject's file and be available for review; that a senior faculty member monitor the Subject's written work for two years; that the Subject be placed on probation for two years; and that, for no less than two years, the Subject be removed from the Center's projects and discontinue involvement in ongoing projects.

We reviewed the University's report and concurred with the University's findings. We recommended additional actions to be taken to protect the federal interest. Specifically, we recommended NSF make a finding of research misconduct against the Subject; issue a letter of reprimand; debar the Subject for one year; require certifications and assurances for three years following debarment; and require completion of RCR training within one year. NSF, however, declined to pursue a research misconduct finding or other recommended actions against the Subject.

We sent the Subject a questionable research practice letter.

Accordingly, this case is closed.