



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-16-0071-O

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OIG conducted an inquiry into an allegation that a PI and Co-PIs submitted a proposal containing copied text. The inquiry determined the PI was responsible for the plagiarism.

We contacted the institution and determined they did not have a research misconduct policy or the capability to conduct an investigation. Consequently, we conducted the investigation in lieu of referring the matter to the PI's institution. We determined that the PI, who was a department chair at his institution, plagiarized nearly half of the project description in the proposal and part of the data management plan, in some cases altering the copied text for emphasis. We also found copied text in two other proposals submitted to NSF by the PI.

We recommended that NSF make a finding of research misconduct against the PI; send him a letter of reprimand; require that he submit certifications and assurances for 3 years; require that he complete responsible conduct of research training; and bar the PI from participating as an NSF peer reviewer, advisor, or consultant for 3 years. NSF's Chief Operating Officer concurred with our recommendations.

Accordingly, this case is **closed**.