NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-17-0010-O

OIG conducted an inquiry into an allegation of plagiarism and intellectual theft related to an NSF proposal. We contacted the PI about the allegation. The PI's response dispelled the intellectual theft allegation, but did not dispel the plagiarism allegation. We referred the investigation to the PI's institution.

The institution conducted an assessment and an inquiry. The PI then provided the institution with a letter of admission, which per its policy, concluded the research misconduct process. The Research Integrity Officer (RIO) provided us with a report in which he determined, based on a preponderance of the evidence, that the PI committed plagiarism recklessly or knowingly, and that the plagiarism deviated from the institution's accepted practices. The institution required that the PI enroll in a responsible conduct of research course, be provided a faculty mentor group, and have her research program's documents examined for plagiarism for three years. It also recommended that her department head provide research misconduct training and mentoring, and provide university officials with annual reports of the PI's progress for three years.

We adopted the University's findings in part, but concluded further investigation was needed in respect to intent, accepted practices, and pattern. Our investigation determined that the PI knowingly committed plagiarism, which was a significant departure from accepted practices of her academic field. We recommended that NSF make a finding of research misconduct against the PI; send her a letter of reprimand; require she submit certifications and assurances for three years; require she complete responsible conduct of research training; and bar the PI from participating as an NSF peer reviewer, advisor, or consultant for three years. NSF's Chief Operating Officer (COO) concurred with our recommendations.

Accordingly, this case is **closed**.