



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-17-0011-O

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We received an allegation of plagiarism in a CAREER proposal. We confirmed the presence of text copied into the proposal without appropriate attribution. The PI told us any similarities were due to a limited number of ways to express certain ideas and similar language of expression between himself and the other authors. We referred the matter to the grantee university for investigation.

The university examined the PI's proposal and publications. It concluded the PI plagiarized in the proposal submitted to NSF. It also concluded the PI's publications contain significant reuse of his earlier material (typically called self-plagiarism). The university concluded the PI's actions were research misconduct and took the following actions: it extended his tenure probation for 1 year; it assigned him a faculty mentor; it required him to complete responsible conduct of research (RCR) training; and it required him to submit his proposals and manuscripts to an appropriate university office prior to submission for 3 years.

We accepted the university's report. We assessed the PI's earlier proposals and found no evidence of a pattern of plagiarism. We concluded the PI committed research misconduct and made several recommendations to NSF. NSF adjudicated and made a finding of research misconduct and informed the PI in a letter of reprimand. It required the PI to certify his compliance with his university requirements, which included the RCR training, and prohibited him from serving as a review, advisor, or consultant of NSF for 1 year.

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