



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-17-0055-O

Page 1 of 1

A reviewer alleged plagiarism relating to a figure in an NSF proposal. The PI of the NSF proposal contended that he placed appropriate citations in the text of the proposal in the section that explained the figure. The PI said he did the same for an additional figure in the NSF proposal. Our inquiry found that the figure legends for the figures and the sections of text corresponding to the figures did not explicitly state that the figures were exactly copied from another researcher's publications. Both figures were schematized depictions and did not represent experimentally-obtained data. Following our inquiry letter, the PI submitted another NSF proposal that used one of the same figures. In this instance, the PI appropriately stated in the figure legend that the figure was directly taken from other sources and included the appropriate citations. Our analysis of his two NSF proposals did not reveal any additional plagiarism. We conclude no further inquiry is warranted and the PI's failure to appropriately cite two figures did not rise to the level of research misconduct.

We sent the PI a questionable practices letter, reminding him to appropriately cite material in his proposals. Accordingly, this case is closed with no further action taken.