



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

## CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-18-0023-O

Page 1 of 1

Two reviewers alleged plagiarism relating to two figures in an NSF proposal in which one of the copied figures was erroneously relabeled. We contacted the PI and co-PI of the proposal regarding the allegations. Based on their responses and further review, we determined that the PI was solely responsible for the copied material that was not appropriately cited. Our inquiry found that the figure legends for the two figures and the sections of text corresponding to the figures did not explicitly state that the two figures were copied from another researcher's publications that were referenced in the proposal. The copied figure that was erroneously labeled by the PI was obtained from the PI's collaborator, who was listed as a paid consultant in the proposal. Our analysis of the PI's other 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 and co-PI questionable research practice letters reminding them about the importance of appropriate citation practices.

Accordingly, this case is closed with no further action.