



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-18-0067-O

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NSF OIG received allegations that a PI at an institution used figures and material from a former collaborator in an awarded NSF proposal without appropriate attribution. Specifically, it was alleged that the PI plagiarized from four of the former collaborator's grant proposals that were submitted to other agencies.

Our review determined that the PI and former collaborator had a previous collaborative history in which the PI was listed as a co-PI in the former collaborator's grant proposals and the former collaborator was listed as collaborator in three prior versions of the NSF proposal that the PI submitted, each of which was declined. After their collaboration ended, the PI continued to pursue the research project and submitted a proposal to NSF with a new collaborator. The figures and material in question were found to exist among the three declined NSF grant proposals, the four other grant proposals, and a publication authored by the former collaborator and PI. The PI's institution notified NSF about the contributions of the former collaborator in the NSF proposal.

While the PI neglected to acknowledge the contribution of the former collaborator when using the product of their past collaboration in the proposal, we concluded that this did not amount to research misconduct. We also concluded that after each NSF proposal was declined, the PI submitted another version of the proposal without substantial revision, a violation of NSF policy.

As a result of our investigation, we sent the PI a questionable research and administrative practices letter.

Accordingly, this case is **closed** with no further action.