



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

## CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-19-0033-O

Page 1 of 1

We received an allegation of intellectual theft against a PI (Subject) of a multi-institutional NSF award. Specifically, it was alleged the Subject used ideas contained in a researcher's draft proposal to a private foundation to write an NSF proposal (Proposal), which was awarded. It was also alleged that the Subject used some of the researcher's work and images in his Proposal and in a presentation to the NSF PO.

We compared the researcher's draft proposal to the Proposal using software and manual review and found no matching verbatim text and no substantial overlap in ideas. We found, however, a slide in a presentation the Subject made to NSF in which it was represented that all the results on the slide were the work product of the Subject's collaboration, but citations did not appear to support that claim.

We wrote to the Subject to ask about the apparently misappropriated work and images. The Subject's response only dispelled our concerns for a subset of the images. We shared our remaining concerns with the Proposal's cognizant PO, who concluded the misrepresentations were not material to the award decision because of the overall strength of the Proposal.

We concluded the matter did not warrant a full investigation and sent the Subject a Questionable Research Practices letter.

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