



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-19-0063-O

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We received an allegation that a proposal submitted to NSF contained substantial overlap with a white paper. We assessed the two documents and found there was significant overlap of proposed research. We asked the Program Director (PD) about her knowledge of the proposed research and researchers associated with the two documents. The PD provided an email, predating the two documents, from one of the authors of the white paper that described a large collaborative project on the topics of both documents and named involved researchers who were on both documents. Additionally, the PI of the proposal had requested two authors of the white paper not review the proposal as they had originally collaborated on the project, but those authors decided to develop their own proposal. Thus, the ideas in both documents were originally jointly developed; as such, any of the original collaborators may pursue those ideas. Accordingly, this case is closed with no further action taken.