



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-20-0054-O

Page 1 of 1

We reviewed an allegation that an article acknowledging NSF funding contained plagiarized material. The article's online version is preceded by a notice that the article plagiarized from one source. The article listed several co-authors.

We contacted the editor for the journal in which the article is published and received a copy of its review for plagiarism, which concluded a portion of three images were taken from the source without appropriate attribution. We wrote to the co-author who served as PI of the acknowledged NSF award, who stated that another co-author's undergraduate student, who was listed as first author, copied the images and accepted responsibility during the journal's review. The PI provided a copy of the undergraduate's letter of apology to the source authors. Neither the undergraduate nor his advisor are associated with NSF funding.

We requested the journal to always notify us when it receives an allegation of research misconduct related to a manuscript or article acknowledging NSF funding.

This case is closed with no further action taken.