



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-20-0057-O

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We received an allegation of plagiarism in two proposals (Proposal 1 and Proposal 2). Our analysis found no plagiarism in Proposal 2 but found copied text and figures in Proposal 1. Proposal 1 was a collaborative proposal, so we sent inquiry letters to both PIs. The PIs explained that the bulk of the copied material came from a paper authored by an unfunded collaborator, who was listed in the Budget Justification. They contended that the proposal narrative made it clear that the remaining two copied figures were not original and came from the appropriate sources. We consider the material copied from the collaborator's paper to be self-plagiarism and therefore not research misconduct. Although we do not agree with the PIs' contention regarding the remaining two copied figures, we determined the amount of copied material does not warrant a research misconduct investigation. Instead, we sent both PIs a questionable research practice letter.

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