



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-22-0046-O

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We received allegations of plagiarism and falsification against three researchers. Specifically, it was alleged that, on four occasions, one or more of the researchers reused text from their own previous publications into their own subsequent NSF-funded publications without naming or acknowledging one or more co-authors of the previous publications, thereby committing plagiarism. It was also alleged that an NSF-funded publication intentionally misrepresented experimental results and conclusions.

Our analysis did not substantiate the allegations. Regarding the plagiarism allegations, we determined that the act constituted self-plagiarism and did not meet the definition of plagiarism under NSF's research misconduct regulation because each subsequent publication included one or more of the same authors as its similar previous publication. Regarding the falsification allegation, we determined that the act did not meet the definition of research misconduct under NSF's research misconduct regulation because the allegation amounted to a difference of opinion about how to describe research.

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