



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

## CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-23-0023-O

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A University notified us it conducted an inquiry into plagiarism by a postdoctoral fellow (Subject) in an awarded NSF fellowship proposal (Proposal) and a retracted journal article (Article). The Article acknowledged support from two NSF awards (Awards) to other universities where a co-Author was a PI. We reviewed the University's inquiry report, concurred with the University that an investigation was warranted, and referred the investigation to the University.

The investigation committee concluded the Proposal and the Article's similarity in phrasing to previous works by another researcher was due to the Subject and the other researcher's reliance on identical or similar sources. The University did not make any research misconduct finding.

We determined there was minimal NSF nexus for the Subject's actions related to the Article allegation. Our review of the University's investigation report and other documents focused on the Proposal and determined a *de minimis* amount of text was insufficiently cited in the Proposal. Given the *de minimis* nature of the Proposal's copied material, we concluded the matter did not warrant further investigation. We sent the Subject a questionable research practice letter to educate him about appropriate citation and NSF's expectation that scholarly writing be used in all proposal sections.

This case is closed with no further action taken.