



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

## CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-23-0072-O

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We investigated an allegation that a PI plagiarized from an NSF proposal (Source) into a proposal (Target) that was submitted to NSF. We examined both proposals and confirmed the presence of duplicative verbatim text. We contacted the PI to ask about the overlap.

The PI said that a colleague provided her with the Source proposal to use as an aid in writing her own proposal. Since she planned to collaborate with the colleague, she assumed she could incorporate text from the Source into the Target. When her colleague informed her that she should not have done that, she withdrew the Target proposal. The PI said that this was her first proposal as sole PI, she is a new faculty member, and she was not aware that NSF expects proposals to meet the same scholarly standards as publications. She added the University is aware of the matter and has recommended she take training.

We confirmed her colleague was listed in the Target proposal. Given the circumstances, we concluded no further investigation is warranted. We sent the PI a questionable research practice letter advising her to follow proper attribution requirements more closely and strongly encouraged her to take responsible and ethical conduct of research training.

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