



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-21-0005-O

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We received an allegation of plagiarism in a declined proposal submitted to NSF by a small business. We identified plagiarism from many sources and sent an inquiry letter to the PI. The PI denied the plagiarism and speculated that others might have copied from him. He provided a list of his published work, most of which was published after the alleged source documents; he provided no documents supporting his contention that others had copied from his published work. We reviewed another proposal submitted by the small business with the same PI and found plagiarism. There was no overlap in the sources that were copied into the two proposals. We concluded the PI knowingly committed research misconduct. We recommended that NSF make a finding of research misconduct, issue a letter of reprimand, and require the PI to complete interactive RECR training. We also recommended that, for 2 years, NSF require certifications and bar the PI from participation as an NSF peer reviewer, advisor, or consultant. NSF concurred with our findings and recommendations.

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