



U.S. NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
Office of Inspector General

Case Closeout Memorandum

OIG Case Number 1-24-0013-O | December 17, 2024

We received an allegation that a PI plagiarized text and ideas from a published paper (Source) in his Small Business Innovation Research proposal (Proposal). Our inquiry found that the entire substantive content of the Proposal was derived from the Source. The Proposal included significant amounts of text and embedded references identical or nearly identical to material in the Source. The Proposal also included most of the references cited in the Source in the same order, despite the list being non-alphabetical and the PI not citing many of the references in the Proposal.

Our investigation concluded that the Subject plagiarized from the Source. We determined that the plagiarism was a significant departure from accepted practices of the relevant research community and was committed culpably and intentionally. We recommended that NSF make a research misconduct finding, issue a letter of reprimand, require the PI to complete interactive Responsible and Ethical Conduct of Research training, and, for 2 years, require the PI to submit certifications and assurances, and prohibit the PI from participating as an NSF peer reviewer, advisor, or consultant.

NSF accepted and implemented our recommendations.

This case is closed with no further action taken.