



U.S. NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
Office of Inspector General

Case Closeout Memorandum

OIG Case Number I-24-0044-O | February 24, 2025

A University notified us it was moving to an investigation, and we deferred our investigation. The University investigated an allegation of plagiarism. Specifically, a former student (Student) alleged his former advisor (Advisor) published a paper that excluded him as a co-author.

The University investigation noted the Student and Advisor jointly prepared a conference paper based on a report the Student wrote for the Advisor's course. The Advisor continued to work on the project after the Student graduated. The Advisor acknowledged the Student in the paper. The University concluded the acknowledgement inaccurately described the Student's contribution, but concluded the Advisor did not commit research misconduct.

We independently assessed the evidence and concluded this was an authorship dispute, which is not research misconduct. This case is closed with no further action taken.