



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A12080058

Page 1 of 1

NSF OIG received an allegation that the funded NSF proposal¹ of a PI² and co-PI³ contained plagiarized material. During our inquiry, the PI and co-PI acknowledged in a joint response that they should have included additional references. Their explanations did not adequately dismiss the allegation, therefore, we referred the investigation to the university.⁴ The university's investigation determined the co-PI was solely responsible for the plagiarized material and concluded the co-PI knowingly plagiarized in the NSF proposal. The university implemented corrective actions that included remedial training and plagiarism screening of all forthcoming proposals.

We agreed with the university's findings. In our Report of Investigation (ROI), we recommended that NSF: make a finding of research misconduct; require the co-PI to submit certifications and assurances for all proposals or documents he submits to NSF for one year; and to complete a course in the responsible conduct of research. We also recommended they prohibit the co-PI from participating as a peer reviewer, advisor, or consultant for NSF for one year. NSF concurred with our recommendations except NSF followed the university's imposed actions and imposed a period of three years for certifications.

Accordingly, this case is **closed**.

¹ NSF Award: [REDACTED]

² [REDACTED]

³ [REDACTED]

⁴ [REDACTED]