



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

## CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A14010001

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We investigated an allegation of plagiarism in a proposal submitted to NSF. As a part of our initial review, we determined the subject copied text into four distinct proposals submitted to NSF.<sup>1</sup> Based on our inquiry, we referred the matter to the subject's institution for investigation. During that investigation the subject stated that some of the text was technically constrained and could not be written differently. He also stated that potential collaborators provided some text to him. The university investigation committee concluded that the subject recklessly plagiarized the text into the proposals.

Based on the extent of the plagiarism, the subject's admission to copying some text, and the fact that we could find no evidence that the copied text was technically constrained, we concluded that the subject knowingly plagiarized over 200 lines of text into four NSF proposals, that these actions were a significant departure from the standards of the research community, and, therefore, these actions constitute research misconduct. We recommended that NSF make a finding of research misconduct, require the Subject to complete a responsible conduct of research program, and provide two years of certifications and assurances for future documents submitted to NSF, and for two years bar the subject from participating as a peer reviewer, advisor, or consultant for NSF. NSF agreed with our recommendations.

<sup>1</sup> [REDACTED]