



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

## CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A15020009

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NSF OIG received an allegation that two proposals<sup>1</sup> submitted in response to the same solicitation<sup>2</sup> by different PIs (PI1<sup>3</sup> and PI2<sup>4</sup>) contained identical text. Further review found the copied text in an earlier proposal (Source)<sup>5</sup> PI2 submitted as sole PI, suggesting PI1 had committed the plagiarism.

We contacted PI1, who explained that she and PI2 are frequent collaborators, and that the text we identified as copied was contained in three of their joint collaborative proposals.<sup>6</sup> She said she was unaware of the Source we identified and instead thought she was simply re-using language from her own earlier proposals.

Our review confirmed that the text we identified as copied was contained in proposals PI1 and PI2 jointly prepared. We therefore concluded that PI1 did not commit plagiarism in re-using material from a proposal on which she was a named PI.

Accordingly, this case is closed with no further action taken.

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