



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-16-0007-O

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We investigated allegations that a Principal Investigator¹ submitted falsified letters of support with a proposal² he sent to NSF. We reviewed support and collaboration letters in prior proposals submitted by the PI over the course of four years and found that the letters of support submitted in the proposal at issue were identical to the letters of support in a proposal³ submitted one year prior, except for a change in the date/year.

We interviewed multiple individuals who provided these letters of support and all except one stated that they were aware that their letter was going to be re-submitted with another proposal. They had either changed the date on the letter of support themselves or had given the PI permission to change the date on the letter. In one instance, the PI or an assistant improperly changed the date on a letter of support and re-submitted it in a subsequent proposal without the knowledge or consent of the individual that provided the letter.

We sent the PI a letter notifying him of our conclusion and informing him that he must obtain permission from individuals before re-using/re-submitting letters of support.

Accordingly, this case is closed.

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[Redacted]