



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

## CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-16-0041-O

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NSF OIG received an allegation of plagiarism in an NSF proposal.<sup>1</sup> Specifically, it was alleged that the proposal contained text copied from a then soon-to-be-published paper. We reviewed the proposal and did identify copied text in it from the paper. We noted that a source was referenced near the copied text and included in the Works Cited section; we also noted, however that the citation did not have the correct journal name and that the copied text was included verbatim.

We contacted the PIs<sup>2</sup> on the collaborative proposal. One PI<sup>3</sup> took responsibility for having included the copied text; he stated that the paper's author<sup>4</sup> had provided him with a copy of it and was in fact going to share data with the PIs if the proposal were funded. He said that, after receiving the allegation, he contacted the author and told her what had happened. He said she was not pleased that he had not edited or properly cited the text, but was okay with including the material because it described only the proposed study site.

Given the totality of the circumstances in this case, we sent the PI responsible for the copied text a Questionable Research Practice letter reminding him of his responsibility to appropriately cite all material in documents submitted to NSF. Accordingly, this case is closed with no further action taken.

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1 [REDACTED]  
2 [REDACTED]  
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