



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

## CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A02050031

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On May 14, 2002, we received an allegation that a mathematician (Subject<sup>1</sup>) submitted an NSF proposal<sup>2</sup> containing material copied directly from a paper published in a conference proceedings<sup>3</sup>. The matter was opened for inquiry on May 29.

We compared the two documents and determined that the first two pages of the conference paper, together with all twenty-one references in the bibliography, were copied directly into the proposal. Subject is not listed as a co-author on the conference paper, none of the co-authors are listed as collaborators in the proposal, and the paper is not included in the References section of the proposal.

In a letter dated June 20, 2002, we asked Subject to respond to questions about his treatment of sources. Subject was out of the country and replied on September 10. Subject explained that the material in question was taken from a proposal he submitted through his previous university<sup>4</sup>. Subject asked his former undergraduate research team to write the introductory material, which concerned biology. Subject accepted responsibility for the plagiarized introduction and acknowledged that he should have checked this material more carefully before submitting his proposals.

Having reviewed the evidence, we accepted Subject's explanation and decided not to pursue this matter further. We note that both proposals were declined and that Subject's most recent proposal does not contain the questioned material.

This case is closed and no further action will be taken.

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	Investigator	Attorney	Supervisor	AIGI
Sign / date				