

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A02070039

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In July 2002, the complainant¹ reviewed the subject's² NSF proposal.³ Apart from the review, the reviewer informed the Program Director (PD)⁴ that the subject had allegedly copied text from someone else's grant. Following NSF's policy, the PD referred the matter to us.

We wrote the subject who told us he previously asked a collaborator⁵ on a grant⁶ for a copy of the proposal they submitted to NSF because he was in the process of preparing his own proposal. Additionally, the subject had asked the PI of that grant for related, research information. The subject appropriately referenced the PI's and collaborator's research information in his proposal, but had not referenced some text (about 15 sentences) he copied verbatim from their proposal. The subject said he generally referenced anything he considered a "result," *e.g.*, the research information. He did not consider the descriptive text he copied a result. Furthermore, since he obtained the text from one of its authors, he assumed he had permission to use it. We explained the need to attribute text, as well as results, especially if using text verbatim. Of his own volition, the subject contacted the PI and collaborator and apologized.

We concluded in this case that the subject's use of someone else's text was inappropriate, but did not rise to the level of research misconduct. We suggested as a resolution that the subject correct the record by submitting a corrected proposal to the PD. The subject and PD agreed this was a satisfactory resolution. Accordingly, this case is closed.

¹ (footnote redacted).

² (footnote redacted).

³ (footnote redacted).

⁴ (footnote redacted).

⁵ (footnote redacted).

⁶ (footnote redacted).

	Investigator	Attorney	Supervisor	AI GI
Sign / date				