



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A02100046

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NSF OIG was contacted¹ with allegations of intellectual theft and plagiarism in a manuscript¹ submitted by the subject,² which acknowledged NSF support through a CAREER grant.³ The complainant was contacted by phone to outline the allegations.

The submitted manuscript references several prior publications of the complainant. The study described in the submitted manuscript is chemically distinct from the systems studied by the complainant, and described in publications of the complainant. Research results described in the submitted manuscript include a ultimate morphology observed with processing similar to that described in the complainant's publications; the subject makes no claim in the submitted manuscript that these are the first observations of this morphology. The submitted manuscript by the subject references appropriate prior work of the complainant for the development of such morphology. Accordingly, there is no basis for a substantive allegation of intellectual theft.

The text and figures in the submitted manuscript were examined for plagiarism. The figures in the submitted manuscript are distinct from those published by the complainant, dealing with a different chemical system. The more schematic figures in the submitted manuscript are distinct from related figures within the papers and presentations of the complainant. Text in the submitted manuscript is not plagiarized from publications of the complainant.

The initial allegation included the suggestion that the subject may have plagiarized the complainant's work in the subject's CAREER grant. The CAREER proposal of the subject contains a collective reference citation that includes several publications of the complainant. No plagiarism of text or figures of the complainant in the CAREER proposal was found.

In summary, the work of the complainant is correctly referenced in the manuscript submitted by the subject. There is no substantive basis of intellectual theft by the subject. Claims of plagiarism, either in figures or in text, are without substance.

Accordingly, the case is *closed*.

¹ redacted

² redacted

³ redacted

	Investigator	Attorney	Supervisor	AIGI
Sign / date				