



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

## CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A03020007

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On February 20, 2003, we received an allegation of plagiarism in a Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) award<sup>1</sup>. Specifically, it was alleged that the proposal must have been plagiarized, because the author was not an expert in a critical research area described in the proposal. The Complainant provided no evidence of plagiarism, however.

We opened an inquiry under NSF's Research Misconduct regulation and reviewed other proposals submitted by the Principals of the small business. We found that the SBIR proposal was ultimately based on a declined research proposal submitted by a multi-disciplinary team with appropriate credentials.

However, other issues arose in the course of our inquiry which involve potential violations of law. These issues will be pursued in the context of a civil/criminal case. Accordingly, this administrative case is closed.

<sup>1</sup> [REDACTED]