



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A-04020005

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We received an allegation concerning a declined proposal.¹ It was alleged that the proposal sought funding for work the PI had already done, as reported in a paper.²

There was substantial duplication of the text in the paper in the proposal. However, the proposal made it clear that it was seeking funding to build on the earlier work. The proposal cited the paper at the beginning of the "Preliminary Results" section, and that section of the proposal discussed the results reported in the paper at substantial length. The paper was also the second one listed in the proposal under "Five Related Publications." Two of the reviews noted the earlier work.

Because the earlier work was fully disclosed and discussed in the proposal, there is no evidence suggesting any intent to mislead and it is highly unlikely anyone would have been misled. The extensive quantity of duplication of the paper in the proposal reflects poorly on the novelty of the proposal, but does not implicate a significant ethical concern. Accordingly, this case is closed.

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