



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A04050030

Page 1 of 1

An allegation was received that a false allegation of research misconduct had been made by a PI¹ on a funded NSF grant² against the co-PI,³ both at the same institution. An institutional inquiry into that allegation was terminated by a personnel agreement reached between the co-PI and the institution, and the co-PI resigned from the position at the institution, and subsequently left the country.

The original dispute is the appearance of a single sentence in a publication that refers to preliminary data obtained by others.⁴ However, separate citation to unpublished work would not be required by the standards of scholarship, given that the subject of the allegation was an author on the published paper as well a member of the collaborative team that produced the preliminary data. The quoted sentence makes no redoubtable statements, and is not referenced further in the published paper. There is no substance to the allegation of plagiarism.

Although there is substance to support the allegation of a bad faith allegation made at the institutional level, there is no regulatory basis from which to proceed. The Institution has failed to notify NSF program officers of the significant problems in the administration of this grant, and we will apprise the cognizant NSF program officer of this failure.

Accordingly, this case is closed.

¹ Redacted

² Redacted.

³ Redacted.

⁴ Redacted.