



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A04070047

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OIG received an allegation that the subject¹ had engaged in plagiarism or intellectual property theft in a proposal submitted to NSF.² The alleged source document was a proposal³ submitted to a private funding source in the United Kingdom.⁴ OIG arranged to receive a copy of the project description from the funding source for comparison. OIG found no evidence of verbatim copying or substantially similar text. Both proposals planned to achieve three goals, only one of which they shared in general terms. The author of the alleged source proposal and subject both proposed work with DNA; however, each proposed a different a starting material. The source proposal did not provide significant detail regarding his proposed methodology whereas the subject provided more substantive detail; both cited the published work of many of the same authors. The proposed methodology as described was for the most part common DNA methodology.

The subject's proposal appears to be distinct from the alleged source, utilizing different materials. Thus, the current body of evidence does not support the allegation of plagiarism or intellectual property theft.

Accordingly, this case is closed.

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written by