



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

## CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A05060039

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This proposal<sup>1</sup> was randomly selected as part of a proactive review in which we ran proposals submitted to NSF in 2004 through a plagiarism finder. This proposal was found to have multiple paragraphs and figures copied verbatim from a published paper (the paper).<sup>2</sup>

In response to our query, the PI responded that he used parts of the paper in the background section of the proposal. He said he referenced the paper and used parts of the paper with permission from one of the paper's authors (the author). The PI said the author was the founder of the company at which the PI worked and will be a consultant on the project. The PI included a letter from the author confirming he was founder of the company, invented the technique the proposal relied upon, and had given permission for employees of the company to use his paper in proposals.

Although the PI cited the paper, it was not referenced near the copied, verbatim text or figures, nor was the copied material distinguished from the PI's original material. Nonetheless, the permission from the author to allow the PI to use material from the paper in proposals severely undercuts an allegation of plagiarism. We sent the PI a letter reminding him he should cite the original source and use quotation marks when he uses verbatim text or figures to avoid any potential confusion about authorship. This case is closed.

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