

## NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

## **CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM**

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We assessed an allegation that the authors<sup>1</sup> of an NSF proposal<sup>2</sup> improperly used a unique idea revealed to them through review of a manuscript in the submission process, or through improper communication with a research collaborator. We established that the idea had been previously published in the scientific literature,<sup>3</sup> and is also proposed in earlier NSF proposals by the authors.<sup>4</sup> There is no support for the allegation.

Accordingly, this case is *closed*.