



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

## CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A13020029

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Our office received an allegation of plagiarism in a proposal<sup>1</sup> to a collaborative research program<sup>2</sup> between U.S. researchers and researchers from a foreign country. Based on the program, the same collaborative proposal is submitted to the foreign entity and to NSF with the basic purpose of stimulating research collaboration between the two countries.

We wrote to the U.S. researchers<sup>3</sup> who stated that they were contacted by the foreign researcher<sup>4</sup> to collaborate. The foreign researcher wrote most of the proposal including the portions containing the copied text. The U.S. researchers stated they had edited portions of the proposal but not the sections containing the copied text because it was clearly written. Independently, the foreign collaborator wrote to our office to confirm the U.S. researcher's explanation.

Given the specifics of this case and the smaller amount of copied text, we determined that the actions did not rise to the level of research misconduct. We wrote to all collaborators reminding them of the need to properly cite text used from another source.

This case is closed with no further action taken.

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[REDACTED]