



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A13030038

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NSF OIG reviewed a Phase I SBIR funded proposal for plagiarism.¹ Our analysis identified copied text from a single source.² We contacted the Subject regarding the allegation, and based on his response, we determined he had copied text from the source into his proposal without proper attribution. While a reference to the source was included at the beginning of the copied text, the verbatim replication is not distinguished with quotations or indentation to allow the reader to infer the origin of the material.

Given the small amount of questioned text remaining, the absence of additional plagiarized material, and the Subject's explanation, we concluded the Subject's copying met the definition of plagiarism and was a departure, but not a significant departure from accepted community standards. Thus, his action did not rise to the level of research misconduct. Therefore, we sent a questionable research practice letter to the Subject, reminding him of his responsibility to correctly cite source material included in his proposals and indicating that similar future allegations made against him could result in our office recommending that NSF make a finding of research misconduct. Accordingly, this case is *closed with no further action taken.*

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