



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A13030050

Page 1 of 1

We reviewed a sequence of successive submitted proposals involving two declined collaborative proposals¹ and an awarded non-collaborative proposal² in response to an allegation of plagiarism against a principal investigator (PI 1³) on all three proposals. There was prior agreement between the contributors (PI 1 and PI 2⁴) to the collaborative proposals that they would retain exclusive rights to their respective intellectual contributions.

When the PI 1 submitted the non-collaborative proposal to NSF, it contained text that was substantially similar to the previous joint submissions by PI 1 and PI 2. The text was primarily from sections describing PI 1's discrete role in the project. Those sections that related to PI 2's discrete role in the collaborative effort in the previous submissions did not appear in the awarded proposal. This constituted a substantial reduction in the scope of that component of the original project.

The awarded proposal consisted mostly of PI 1's work from the original collaboration and only a proof-of-concept study rather than the expansive proof-of-practice study proposed when PI 2 was involved. The proof-of-concept study in the awarded proposal involves standard research models and protocols with otherwise insignificant overlap with the collaborative proposals. Therefore, there is insufficient substance to support further investigation of plagiarism (text, ideas, methods, or processes).

Accordingly, this case is closed.

1 [REDACTED]
2 [REDACTED]
3 [REDACTED]
4 [REDACTED]