



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-20-0013-O

Page 1 of 1

NSF OIG received an allegation that a PI at an institution used a figure from an unrelated publication (the Alleged Source) in a recent NSF proposal without appropriate attribution. Upon receiving additional information from the complainant and reviewing the PI's proposal history, we concluded that the PI copied the figure in the recent proposal from his own past publication and his past NSF proposals, all of which pre-dated the Alleged Source publication authored by another researcher. As the author of the Alleged Source seemingly copied the figure from the PI's past publication, we relayed this information to the journal editor of the Alleged Source since the publication and its author had no discernable nexus to NSF.

Our further review determined that after an NSF proposal was declined, the PI submitted another version of the proposal without substantial revision, a violation of NSF policy. Thus, we sent the PI a questionable administrative practices letter.

Accordingly, this case is closed with no further action.