



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

## CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-12050019

Page 1 of 1

We received allegations<sup>1</sup> that (i) employees on an NSF award<sup>2</sup> to a university<sup>3</sup> were conducting research on matters involving foreign science and technology that were outside the scope of the award,<sup>4</sup> and (ii) the PI employed his wife as part of the award and paid her salary from award funds.<sup>5</sup>

We found no credible evidence of research on foreign matters that exceeded the domestic scope of the award. The allegation held no credibility. There is no indication that these researchers had steered research in the direction of science and technology involving their home country.

We also determined that NSF program officials were aware of the employment of the PI's wife as part of the award. Furthermore, the university's policies permit employment of relatives, subject to controls on supervision and compliance with applicable conflicts of interest disclosure policies.<sup>6</sup> Given the transparency about the wife's role in the proposal and with the program officer, we found no basis to believe that the university's policies had been circumvented.

This investigative case is closed with no further action taken.

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