

31 March 1998

Memorandum

To: File
198020006

From: [REDACTED]
Investigative Attorney

Through: [REDACTED]
Special Agent-in-Charge

Subject: Resolution of Allegations

On 18 February 1998, the Investigations Section received an anonymous allegation regarding NSF grantee [REDACTED], an Associate Professor of Biochemistry at [REDACTED]. In addition to questioning the scientific merit of his work (a matter that we did not examine, as it referred not to any crime or misconduct, but to program management issues), the complainant asserted that [REDACTED] was using grant funds to pay his wife to work on his NSF grants [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], even though she is not qualified to do so. The complainant also alleged that [REDACTED] was using grant funds to pay for his wife to accompany him on both grant related and personal travel.

We contacted [REDACTED] Vice Provost for Research, [REDACTED] who had also received these allegations and had been charged with investigating them on behalf of the University. She said that [REDACTED] had already examined the allegations, and had found them to be without merit. Specifically, she said that a review of travel paid from [REDACTED] grant funds indicated no payments from NSF funds for Mrs. [REDACTED] travel. She had taken two trips, which were paid by [REDACTED] funds and from an NIH grant, both of which were for work related presentations. [REDACTED] also said that Mrs. [REDACTED] was hired and supervised not by [REDACTED] but by [REDACTED] the Chair of the Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics. [REDACTED] said that [REDACTED] had provided a letter to [REDACTED] in which she described Mrs. [REDACTED] as a "highly skilled technician" who "has provided invaluable technical support to his laboratory for many years" despite her lack of formal scientific training. The letter also indicated that [REDACTED] had reviewed all travel paid from any funds allocated to [REDACTED] and that there had been only the two reimbursements for Mrs. [REDACTED] described above. Neither were from NSF grant funds.

[REDACTED] provided copies of the travel records referenced above, as well as a copy of [REDACTED] letter. Based on our review of these documents, as well as our discussions with [REDACTED] we agree that the allegations of improper use of NSF grant funds are unfounded. For this reason, this case is closed.