



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A-04050032

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Our office received a concern that the PI (the subject) on an NSF award¹ employs the subject's spouse² with funds from the NSF award. The allegation was that this was done without the University's knowledge or approval, avoiding concerns about nepotism and conflicts of interest.

We learned that the subject's spouse was listed as a participant on the award. We also learned that the original award³ to the subject had been to the subject's former institution. When the subject moved to the University from the former institution, the NSF award was officially transferred to the University. At the time the award was transferred, four new participants, one of whom was the subject's spouse, replaced the two original co-PIs.

We contacted the University's provost⁴ who confirmed that one of the participants on the transferred award was the subject's spouse. Further, the provost explained that the subject informed the University at the outset that one of the participants was the subject's spouse. The University followed its procedures, evaluating the situation and ensuring that the subject's spouse would be supervised and evaluated separately to avoid any concerns about nepotism or conflicts of interest.

This case is closed and no further action will be taken.

¹ The NSF award is [REDACTED], entitled "[REDACTED]" with the subject, [REDACTED], a faculty member at the [REDACTED] (the University) as the sole PI.

² [REDACTED], a participant on the subject's NSF award, is the subject's spouse.

³ The original award, [REDACTED], had the subject as the PI with co-PIs, [REDACTED] (the former institution).

⁴ [REDACTED] Provost, [REDACTED]