



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I12120085

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We initiated an investigation into an allegation that a PI¹ (the Subject) and his wife² improperly charged expenses for international travel to an NSF award³.

During the course of the investigation, we obtained, reviewed, and analyzed grant files, university policies, and accounting documentation. We interviewed the cognizant NSF program officer, university officials, and the Subject and his wife. We discovered evidence that the Subject and his wife traveled to Turkey to give invited presentations in three locations⁴. Of the two available abstracts for these presentations, neither acknowledges NSF support. One of the abstracts acknowledges another agency⁵. Neither the Subject nor his wife were able to produce documentation that the presentations furthered the objectives of the NSF award. Furthermore, they were unable to explain why another agency would be acknowledged during an NSF-sponsored trip.

We also discovered that despite university policies prohibiting such behavior, the Subject had certified his wife's effort report on at least one occasion.

We informed the university of our findings and the university subsequently issued a check in the amount of \$5,623.33 for the improperly charged monies. The university also agreed to examine their conflict of interest policies, specifically policies governing the management of co-workers who are also relatives.

Accordingly, this case is closed.

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