



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

## CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I15060035

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We received an allegation from a complainant<sup>1</sup> that she was retaliated against for holding a project team leader on an NSF award<sup>2</sup> to requirements that she be provided with a postdoctoral mentoring plan, that graduate students receive back-pay salaries<sup>3</sup>, and that the research vessel she worked on be properly insured. We determined that our office did not have jurisdiction to investigate the complainant's allegations of retaliation because the complainant was not an NSF employee and was therefore not covered by the Whistleblower Protection Act,<sup>4</sup> and because the complaint did not involve any NSF awards that came under the specific jurisdiction granted to our office by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act<sup>5</sup> or the Pilot Program for Enhancement of Contractor Protection from Reprisal for Disclosure of Certain Information<sup>6</sup> to investigate retaliation claims made by employees of contractors or grantees.

We referred the complainant's allegations regarding the postdoctoral research plan and lack of insurance for the research vessel to NSF management.

This case is closed with no further action taken.

<sup>3</sup> This issue was unrelated to the NSF award.

<sup>4</sup> 5 U.S.C. § 2302.

<sup>5</sup> P.L. 111-5 § 1553; the award was not funded under this statute.

<sup>6</sup> 41 U.S.C. § 4712; the relevant increments of the award closed before the effective date of this statute.