FUNDING

Wellcome pulls grant

Anti-bullying policy applied.

BY HOLLY ELSE

The Wellcome Trust has revoked a £3.5-million (US$4.5-million) grant awarded to a top cancer geneticist, Nazneen Rahman, following allegations that she bullied people when she worked at the Institute of Cancer Research (ICR) in London.

The decision represents the first implementation of a pioneering anti-bullying and anti-harassment policy that Wellcome, a London-based charity, introduced in June. In addition, for two years, Rahman will not be able to apply for funding from Wellcome or sit on any of its advisory committees or boards.

The charity says that it learnt from the ICR in July that an independent investigation had deemed some of the allegations serious enough to warrant consideration at a disciplinary hearing. But Rahman resigned and the hearing did not take place.

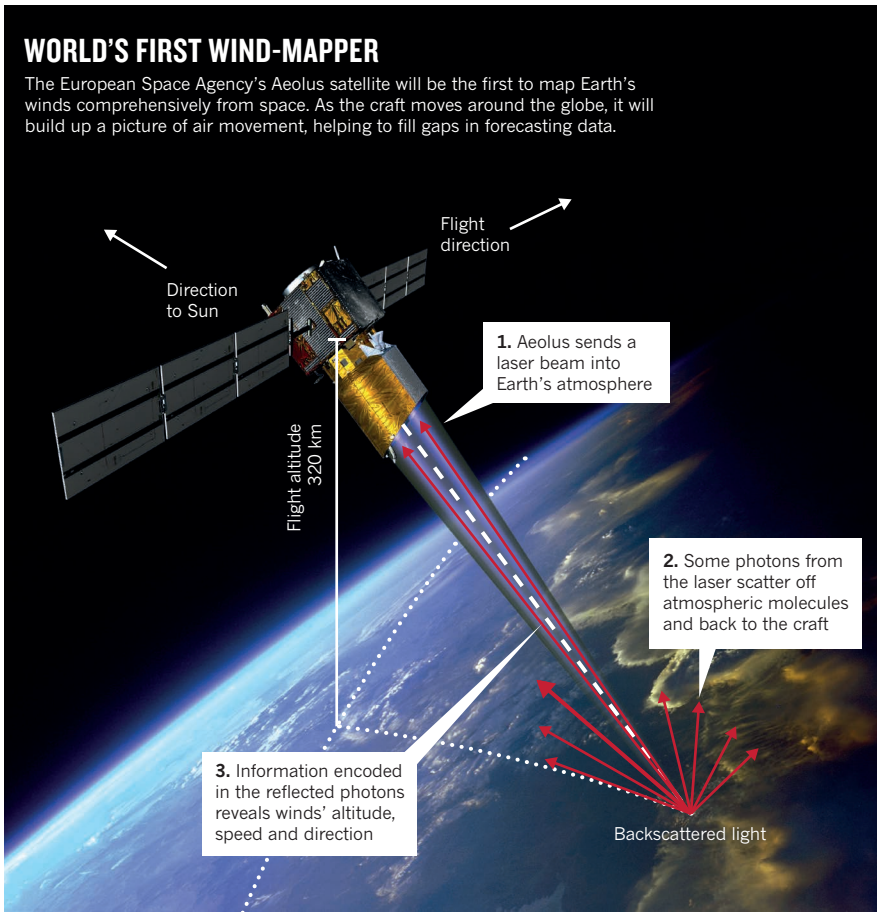
"My team and I will complete our Wellcome-funded research prior to my leaving ICR in October," Rahman told *Nature*. "We are working with ICR and Wellcome to ensure science and patients can benefit from our work." She made no further comments about the allegations or the investigation.

The ICR has not made public its investigational report, which it says contains highly confidential information. But Wellcome says it had enough information to act.

Wellcome was the first major UK research funder to institute an anti-bullying and anti-harassment policy; the US National Science Foundation introduced similar rules a few months earlier. Scientists welcomed the policies at the time, but some expressed concerns that they did not go far enough.

The Wellcome Trust says that it will update its policy in the wake of the ICR case. It will now require institutions to inform it of allegations when they decide to investigate, rather than when allegations are upheld. And it will prevent institutions from making secretive arrangements that keep them from sharing findings or otherwise applying the policy.

The ICR recognizes that it "could have done more to support those who came to us with concerns", and says it is "absolutely committed to learning the lessons". The institute says it is now working with Rahman and Wellcome to "complete and transition her research", and that it welcomes the efforts being made by the charity and others to improve the culture of the scientific community. ■



ESA

METEOROLOGY

Spacecraft will map world's wind

Europe's long-awaited Aeolus mission will be the first satellite to monitor winds at a global level.

BY ALEXANDRA WITZE

After a two-decade wait, data from a pioneering wind-monitoring satellite are finally in meteorologists' sights. As *Nature* went to press, the European Space Agency's (ESA's) Aeolus mission — set to be the first to comprehensively monitor wind around the globe — was readying for launch from Kourou, French Guiana, on 22 August. Researchers think that the satellite's data will significantly improve weather forecasts, because the lack of detailed wind measurements is one of the biggest gaps in the global Earth-observing system[1].

Aeolus, a three-year, €480-million (US$550-million) mission, will use ultraviolet lasers to track wind speed and direction in the lowermost 30 kilometres of the atmosphere[2]. Researchers have used similar lasers on aeroplanes to study winds in particular regions, but this will be the first wind-mapping mission to cover the entire globe. If Aeolus works as planned, forecasts will be improved substantially in tropical regions, and by a few per cent in Earth's mid- and high latitudes. "You may think that does not sound like very much, but if we improve forecasts by 2%, the value for society is many billions of dollars," says Lars Isaksen, a meteorologist at the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) in Reading, UK.

Until now, meteorologists have pieced together information on winds from a patchwork of sources, including weather