

ACACIA RESEARCH CORP
Form SC 13G
January 08, 2016

**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549**

SCHEDULE 13G

Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

(Amendment No.)*

ACACIA RESEARCH CORPORATION
(Name of Issuer)

Common Stock
(Title of Class of Securities)

003881307
(CUSIP Number)

December 31, 2015
(Date of Event Which Requires Filing of this Statement)

Check the appropriate box to designate the rule pursuant to which this Schedule is filed:

Rule 13d-1(b)

Rule 13d-1(c)

Rule 13d-1(d)

*The remainder of this cover page shall be filled out for a reporting person's initial filing on this form with respect to the subject class of securities, and for any subsequent amendment containing information which

would alter the disclosures provided in a prior cover page.

The information required in the remainder of this cover page shall not be deemed to be filed for the purpose of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (Act) or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section of the Act but shall be subject to all other provisions of the Act (however, see the Notes).

CUSIP No.: 003881307

1 NAMES OF REPORTING PERSONS

HEARTLAND ADVISORS, INC.

2 CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP

(a)

(b)

3 SEC USE ONLY

4 CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

WISCONSIN, U.S.A.

| | | |
|--------------|--|--------------------------|
| NUMBER OF | 5 | SOLE VOTING POWER |
| SHARES | | 0 |
| BENEFICIALLY | 6 | SHARED VOTING POWER |
| OWNED BY | | 5,098,125 |
| EACH | 7 | SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER |
| REPORTING | | 0 |
| PERSON WITH | 8 | SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER |
| | | 5,159,865 |
| 9 | AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON | |
| | 5,159,865 | |
| 10 | CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES | |
| 11 | PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW 9 | |
| | 10.2% | |
| 12 | TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON | |
| | IA | |

CUSIP No.: 003881307

1 NAMES OF REPORTING PERSONS

William J. Nascovitz

2 CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP

(a)

(b)

3 SEC USE ONLY

4 CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

U.S.A.

| | | |
|--------------|--|--------------------------|
| NUMBER OF | 5 | SOLE VOTING POWER |
| SHARES | | 0 |
| BENEFICIALLY | 6 | SHARED VOTING POWER |
| OWNED BY | | 5,098,125 |
| EACH | 7 | SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER |
| REPORTING | | 0 |
| PERSON WITH | 8 | SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER |
| | | 5,159,865 |
| 9 | AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON | |
| | 5,159,865 | |
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| | 10.2% | |
| 12 | TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON | |
| | IN | |

Item 1.

(a) **Name of Issuer:**

Acacia Research Corporation

(b) **Address of Issuer's Principal Executive Offices:**

520 Newport Center Drive

Newport Beach, California 92660

Item 2.

(a) **Name of Persons Filing:**

(1)

Heartland Advisors, Inc.

(2)

William J. Nasgovitz

(b) **Address of Principal Business Office:**

All reporting persons may be contacted at:

789 North Water Street

Milwaukee, WI 53202

(c) **Citizenship:**

Heartland Advisors, Inc. is a Wisconsin corporation. William J. Nasgovitz is a United States citizen.

(d) **Title of Class of Securities:**

Common Stock

(e) **CUSIP Number:**

003881307

Item 3.

If this statement is filed pursuant to Rule 13d-1(b), or 13d-2(b) or (c), check whether the person filing is a(n):

- (a) Broker or dealer registered under Section 15 of the Act;
- (b) Bank as defined in Section 3(a)(6) of the Act;
- (c) Insurance company as defined in Section 3(a)(19) of the Act;
- (d) Investment company registered under Section 8 of the Investment Company Act;
- (e) X *Investment adviser in accordance with Rule 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(E);
- (f) Employee benefit plan or endowment fund in accordance with Rule 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(F);
- (g) X *Parent holding company or control person in accordance with Rule 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(G);
- (h) Savings association as defined in Section 3(b) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act;
- (i) Church plan that is excluded from the definition of an investment company under Section 3(c)(14) of the Investment Company Act;
- (j) A non-U.S. institution in accordance with § 240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(J); or
- (k) Group, in accordance with § 240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(K).

*The persons filing this Schedule 13G are Heartland Advisors, Inc., an investment adviser registered with the SEC, and William J. Nasgovitz, Chairman and control person of Heartland Advisors, Inc. The reporting persons do not admit that they constitute a group.

Item 4.

Ownership

- (a) Amount beneficially owned:

5,159,865 shares may be deemed beneficially owned within the meaning of Rule 13d-3 of the Act by (1) Heartland Advisors, Inc. by virtue of its investment discretion and voting authority granted by certain clients, which may be revoked at any time; and (2) William J. Nasgovitz by virtue of his control of Heartland Advisors, Inc.

Mr. Nasgovitz disclaims beneficial ownership of any shares reported on the Schedule.

- (b) Percent of Class: 10.2%
- (c) For information on voting and dispositive power with respect to the above listed shares, see Items 5-9 on the Cover Pages.

Item 5. Ownership of Five Percent or Less of a Class.

Not applicable.

Item 6. Ownership of More than Five Percent on Behalf of Another Person.

The clients of Heartland Advisors, Inc., a registered investment adviser, including an investment company registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940 and other managed accounts, have the right to receive or the power to direct the receipt of dividends and proceeds from the sale of shares included on this Schedule. The Heartland Value Fund, a series of Heartland Group, Inc., a registered investment company, owns 4,600,000 shares or 9.1% of the class of securities reported herein. Any remaining shares disclosed in this filing are owned by various other accounts managed by Heartland Advisors, Inc. on a discretionary basis. To the best of Heartland Advisors' knowledge, none of the other accounts owns more than 5% of the outstanding stock.

Item 7. Identification and Classification of the Subsidiary Which Acquired the Security Being Reported on by the Parent Holding Company.

Not applicable.

Item 8. Identification and Classification of Members of the Group.

Not applicable.

Item 9. Notice of Dissolution of Group.

Not Applicable

Item 10. Certification.

By signing below, the undersigned certify that, to the best of their knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were acquired and are held in the ordinary course of business and were not acquired and are not held for the purpose of or with the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of the securities and were not acquired and are not held in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having that purpose or effect.

SIGNATURE

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of their knowledge and belief, the undersigned certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

Date: January 8, 2016

WILLIAM J. NASGOVITZ

HEARTLAND ADVISORS, INC.

By: /s/ VINITA K. PAUL
As Attorney in Fact for
William J. Nasgovitz

By: /s/ VINITA K. PAUL
Vinita K. Paul
Vice President, General Counsel and Chief
Compliance Officer

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit 1

Joint Filing Agreement

EXHIBIT 1 JOINT FILING AGREEMENT

JOINT FILING AGREEMENT

In accordance with Rule 13d-1(k)(1) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, each of the undersigned hereby agrees to the joint filing with the other reporting person of a statement on Schedule 13G (including amendments thereto) with respect to the Common Stock, \$0.001 par value, of Acacia Research Corporation and that this Agreement be included as an Exhibit to such joint filing.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned hereby execute this Agreement this 8th day of January, 2016.

WILLIAM J. NASGOVITZ

HEARTLAND ADVISORS, INC.

By: /s/ VINITA K. PAUL
As Attorney in Fact for William J. Nasgovitz
(Pursuant to Power of Attorney previously filed)

By: /s/ VINITA K. PAUL
Vinita K. Paul
Vice President, General Counsel and Chief
Compliance Officer