# OpenAI faces safety concerns amid employee departures



**OpenAI Faces Safety Concerns Amid Employee Departures**

In May 2024, significant safety concerns arose at OpenAI, a leading developer of artificial intelligence tools, particularly regarding their ChatGPT product. The company's co-founder, Ilya Sutskever, resigned as chief scientist. Along with other departing executives, he expressed worries that the focus on product development overshadowed essential safety measures. Departing staff member Jan Leike criticized the company's safety culture, claiming it struggled to ensure their AI's safety against potential threats to humanity.

Former employee Daniel Kokotajlo shared similar sentiments, expressing his loss of trust in OpenAI's leadership. Some of these concerns trace back to last year when Sutskever unsuccessfully pushed the board to fire CEO Sam Altman due to safety issues.

Adding to the controversy, former employees faced restrictive nondisclosure clauses that risked their vested equity if they spoke out about internal practices. Amid the backlash on social media, Altman announced the removal of these clauses from future exit documents.

Both Altman and OpenAI's president, Greg Brockman, have sought to mitigate concerns by emphasizing a balance between innovation and safety. These internal criticisms could potentially lead to tighter regulatory scrutiny, impacting OpenAI's competitive edge.