



ISTITUTO NAZIONALE DI GEOFISICA E VULCANOLOGIA

il Direttore

**Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica  
e Vulcanologia  
AOO INGV**

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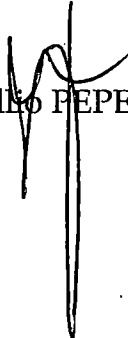
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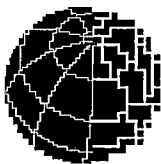
Ai Direttori di Dipartimento  
Ai Direttori di Sezione  
Al Responsabile Centro Servizi – Ufficio per il Coordinamento  
delle attività a Supporto della Ricerca  
Alla Segreteria della Presidenza

Oggetto: Pubblicità atti

Si notifica in copia l'allegata Delibera n. 612/2018 del 08/06/2018 – Allegato H al Verbale n. 04/2018 concernente: San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment.

Tullio PEPE





# Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia

Delibera n. 612/2018

Allegato H al Verbale n. 04/2018

Oggetto: *San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment.*

## IL CONSIGLIO DI AMMINISTRAZIONE

- **VISTO** il Decreto legislativo 29 settembre 1999, n. 381, concernente la costituzione dell'Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia (INGV);
- **VISTA** la Legge 27 settembre 2007, n. 165, concernente la "Delega al Governo in materia di riordino degli Enti di Ricerca";
- **VISTO** il Decreto legislativo 31 dicembre 2009, n. 213, concernente il "Riordino degli Enti di Ricerca in attuazione dell'art. 1 della Legge 27 settembre 2007, n. 165";
- **VISTO** il Decreto legislativo 25 Novembre 2016, n. 218, recante "*Semplificazione delle attività degli Enti Pubblici di Ricerca ai sensi dell'art. 13 della Legge n. 124/2015*";
- **VISTO** lo Statuto dell'Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia approvato con delibera n. 424/2017 del Consiglio di Amministrazione, in data 15 settembre 2017 - pubblicato sulla Gazzetta Ufficiale della Repubblica Italiana – Serie Generale n. 27 del 02 febbraio 2018 in particolare l'art. 8 comma 6 lettera f) il quale prevede che il CdA "*...delibera la partecipazione a società, fondazione e consorzi, nonché la stipulazione di accordi con organismi nazionali, europei e internazionali*";
- **VISTO** il Regolamento di Organizzazione e Funzionamento dell'Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia emanato con Decreto del Presidente n. 45 del 21/02/2018 e pubblicato sul sito istituzionale;
- **VISTO** il Regolamento di Amministrazione, Contabilità e Finanza pubblicato sulla Gazzetta Ufficiale della Repubblica Italiana – Serie Generale n. 119 del 14 maggio 2018 e pubblicato sul sito istituzionale;
- **VALUTATA** l'opportunità di sottoscrivere il *San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment*, mirato alla valutazione della ricerca e alla pubblicazione dei risultati;
- **CONSIDERATO** che le Parti, con il presente accordo, istituiscono una cooperazione finalizzata a garantire il conseguimento dell'interesse pubblico nella ricerca scientifica, anche a livello internazionale;

## DELIBERA

di autorizzare il Presidente, alla definizione nonché alla sottoscrizione del *San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment* (all.1).

Letto, approvato e sottoscritto seduta stante.

Roma, 08/06/2018

La segretaria verbalizzante  
(Avv. Maria Valeria INTINI)

IL PRESIDENTE  
(Prof. Carlo DOGLIONI)

# San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment

*Putting science into the assessment of research*

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There is a pressing need to improve the ways in which the output of scientific research is evaluated by funding agencies, academic institutions, and other parties.

To address this issue, a group of editors and publishers of scholarly journals met during the Annual Meeting of The American Society for Cell Biology (ASCB) in San Francisco, CA, on December 16, 2012. The group developed a set of recommendations, referred to as the *San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment*. We invite interested parties across all scientific disciplines to indicate their support by adding their names to this Declaration.

The outputs from scientific research are many and varied, including: research articles reporting new knowledge, data, reagents, and software; intellectual property; and highly trained young scientists. Funding agencies, institutions that employ scientists, and scientists themselves, all have a desire, and need, to assess the quality and impact of scientific outputs. It is thus imperative that scientific output is measured accurately and evaluated wisely.

The Journal Impact Factor is frequently used as the primary parameter with which to compare the scientific output of individuals and institutions. The Journal Impact Factor, as calculated by Thomson Reuters,\* was originally created as a tool to help librarians identify journals to purchase, not as a measure of the scientific quality of research in an article. With that in mind, it is critical to understand that the Journal Impact Factor has a number of well-documented deficiencies as a tool for research assessment. These limitations include: A) citation distributions within journals are highly skewed [1–3]; B) the properties of the Journal Impact Factor are field-specific: it is a composite of multiple, highly diverse article types, including primary research papers and reviews [1, 4]; C) Journal Impact Factors can be manipulated (or “gamed”) by editorial policy [5]; and D) data used to calculate the Journal Impact Factors are neither transparent nor openly available to the public [4, 6, 7].

Below we make a number of recommendations for improving the way in which the quality of research output is evaluated. Outputs other than research articles will grow in importance in assessing research effectiveness in the future, but the peer-reviewed research paper will remain a central research output that informs research assessment. Our recommendations therefore focus primarily on practices relating to research articles published in peer-reviewed journals but can and should be extended by recognizing additional products, such as datasets, as important research outputs. These recommendations are aimed at funding agencies, academic institutions, journals, organizations that supply metrics, and individual researchers.

A number of themes run through these recommendations:



- the need to eliminate the use of journal-based metrics, such as Journal Impact Factors, in funding, appointment, and promotion considerations.
- the need to assess research on its own merits rather than on the basis of the journal in which the research is published, and
- the need to capitalize on the opportunities provided by online publication (such as relaxing unnecessary limits on the number of words, figures, and references in articles, and exploring new indicators of significance and impact)

We recognize that many funding agencies, institutions, publishers, and researchers are already encouraging improved practices in research assessment. Such steps are beginning to increase the momentum toward more sophisticated and meaningful approaches to research evaluation that can now be built upon and adopted by all of the key constituencies involved.

The signatories of the *San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment* support the adoption of the following practices in research assessment.

### **General Recommendation**

1. Do not use journal-based metrics, such as Journal Impact Factors, as a surrogate measure of the quality of individual research articles, to assess an individual scientist's contributions, or in hiring, promotion, or funding decisions.

### **For funding agencies**

2. Be explicit about the criteria used in evaluating the scientific productivity of grant applicants and clearly highlight, especially for early-stage investigators, that the scientific content of a paper is much more important than publication metrics or the identity of the journal in which it was published.
3. For the purposes of research assessment, consider the value and impact of all research outputs (including datasets and software) in addition to research publications, and consider a broad range of impact measures including qualitative indicators of research impact, such as influence on policy and practice.

### **For institutions**

4. Be explicit about the criteria used to reach hiring, tenure, and promotion decisions, clearly highlighting, especially for early-stage investigators, that the scientific content of a paper is much more important than publication metrics or the identity of the journal in which it was published.
5. For the purposes of research assessment, consider the value and impact of all research outputs (including datasets and software) in addition to research publications, and consider a broad range of impact measures including qualitative indicators of research impact, such as influence on policy and practice.

### **For publishers**

6. Greatly reduce emphasis on the journal impact factor as a promotional tool, ideally by ceasing to promote the impact factor or by presenting the metric in the

context of a variety of journal-based metrics (e.g., 5-year impact factor, EigenFactor [8], SCImago [9], *h*-index, editorial and publication times, etc.) that provide a richer view of journal performance.

7. Make available a range of article-level metrics to encourage a shift toward assessment based on the scientific content of an article rather than publication metrics of the journal in which it was published.
8. Encourage responsible authorship practices and the provision of information about the specific contributions of each author.
9. Whether a journal is open-access or subscription-based, remove all reuse limitations on reference lists in research articles and make them available under the Creative Commons Public Domain Dedication [10].
10. Remove or reduce the constraints on the number of references in research articles, and, where appropriate, mandate the citation of primary literature in favor of reviews in order to give credit to the group(s) who first reported a finding.

### **For organizations that supply metrics**

11. Be open and transparent by providing data and methods used to calculate all metrics.
12. Provide the data under a licence that allows unrestricted reuse, and provide computational access to data, where possible.
13. Be clear that inappropriate manipulation of metrics will not be tolerated; be explicit about what constitutes inappropriate manipulation and what measures will be taken to combat this.
14. Account for the variation in article types (e.g., reviews versus research articles), and in different subject areas when metrics are used, aggregated, or compared.

### **For researchers**

15. When involved in committees making decisions about funding, hiring, tenure, or promotion, make assessments based on scientific content rather than publication metrics.
16. Wherever appropriate, cite primary literature in which observations are first reported rather than reviews in order to give credit where credit is due.
17. Use a range of article metrics and indicators on personal/supporting statements, as evidence of the impact of individual published articles and other research outputs [11].
18. Challenge research assessment practices that rely inappropriately on Journal Impact Factors and promote and teach best practice that focuses on the value and influence of specific research outputs.

### **References**

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evaluating research. *BMJ* 314, 498–502.

3. Editorial (2005). Not so deep impact. *Nature* 435, 1003–1004.

4. Vanclay, J.K. (2012) Impact Factor: Outdated artefact or stepping-stone to journal certification. *Scientometric* 92, 211–238.

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8. <http://www.eigenfactor.org/>

9. <http://www.scimagojr.com/>

10. <http://opencitations.wordpress.com/2013/01/03/open-letter-to-publishers>

11. <http://altmetrics.org/tools/>

\*The Journal Impact Factor is now published by Clarivate Analytics.

### Original Signers

**Euan Adie**, Altmetric LLP

**Sharon Ahmad**, Executive Editor, *The Journal of Cell Science*

**Bruce Alberts**, Editor-in-Chief, *Science*

**Parker Antin**, Editor-in Chief, *Developmental Dynamics*

**Ellen Bergfeld**, American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, and Soil Science Society of America

**Stefano Bertuzzi**, Executive Director, American Society for Cell Biology

**Pete Binfield**, Co-Founder and Publisher, PeerJ

**David Botstein**, Founding Editor-in-Chief of *Molecular Biology of the Cell*; Director Lewis-Sigler Institute for Integrative Genomics, Princeton University

**Michael Caplan**, Yale University

**Paul Courant**, Dean of Libraries and Harold Shapiro Professor of Public Policy, University of Michigan

**Brendan Crabb**, President, Association of Australian Medical Research Institutes; Director, The Burnet Institute, Melbourne

**Ana-Maria Cuervo**, co-Editor-in-Chief of *Aging Cell*; Professor, Albert Einstein College of Medicine

**Stephen Curry**

**Tracey dePellegrin**, Executive Editor, *Genetics*

**Mara Dierssen**, President, Spanish Society of Neuroscience



**David Drubin**, Editor-in-Chief, *Molecular Biology of the Cell*; Professor, University of California, Berkeley

**Martha Fedor**, Editor-in-Chief, *Journal of Biological Chemistry*

**Sir Alan Fersht, FRS**, Medical Research Council Laboratory of Molecular Biology

**László Fésüs**, Chairman of Publications Committee, Federation of European Biochemical Societies

**Toni Gabaldón**, Centre for Genomic Regulation

**Christian Gericke**, Associate Editor, BMC Health Services Research; CEO, The Wesley Research Institute

**Paul A. Gleeson**, Head, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, The University of Melbourne

**Robert Graham**, Executive Director, Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute

**Petra Gross**, Reviews Editor, *Journal of Cell Science*

**Peter Gunning**, President, American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology; Editor-In-Chief, *BioArchitecture*

**Lisa Hannan**, Managing Editor, *Traffic*

**Brian Hoal**, Society of Economic Geologists

**Jason Hoyt**, Co-Founder and CEO, PeerJ

**Phil Hurst**, Publisher, Royal Society (UK)

**Paul Hutchinson**

**Reinhard Jahn**, Department of Neurobiology, MPI for Biophysical Chemistry; EMBO Publications Advisory Committee (chair); EMBL Scientific Advisory Board (vice chair); Dean, Göttingen Graduate School for Neurosciences, Biophysics, and Molecular Biosciences

**David James**, Director Diabetes and Obesity Program, Garvan Institute of Medical Research

**Mark Johnston**, Editor-in-Chief of *GENETICS*; Professor and Chair, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics, the University of Colorado School of Medicine

**Kozo Kaibuchi**, Editor-in-Chief of *Cell Structures and Functions* (the official journal of the Japanese Society for Cell Biology)

**Karl Kuchler**, Medical University Vienna, Max F. Perutz Laboratories

**Pekka Lappalainen**, Research Director, Institute of Biotechnology, University of Finland

**W. Mark Leader**, Publications Director, American Society for Cell Biology

**Daniel Louvard**, Director of the Research Centre Institut Curie

**Vivek Malhotra**, Centre for Genomic Regulation, Barcelona, Spain

**Michael Marks**, Co-editor, *Traffic*; Professor, University of Pennsylvania

**Mark Marsh**, Co-editor, *Traffic*

**Thomas Marwick**, Director, Menzies Research Institute Tasmania

**Paul Matsudaira**, National University of Singapore

**Satyajit Mayor**, Director, National Centre for Biological Science, Bangalore, India

**Tom Misteli**, Editor-in-Chief, *Journal of Cell Biology*

**Lucia Monaco**, Italian Telethon Foundation

**Eric Murphy**, Editor-in-Chief, *Lipids*, a Journal of the American Oil Chemists' Society

**Mark Patterson**, Executive Director, *eLife*

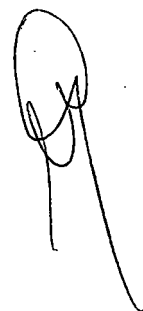
**Olivier Pourquie**, Université de Strasbourg

**Jason Priem**, ImpactStory

**Bernd Pulverer**, Chief Editor of *The EMBO Journal*; and Head of Scientific Publications, EMBO

**Jordan Raff**, President of the British Society of Cell Biology, Editor-in-Chief of *Biology Open*

**Brian Ray**, Senior Editor, *Science Magazine*; Founding Editor, *Science Signaling*



**Francisco X. Real**, Spanish National Cancer Research Center and Universitat Pompeu Fabra  
**Alyson Reed**, Executive Director, Linguistic Society of America  
**Phillip J. Robinson**, Head, Cell Signalling Unit, Children's Medical Research Institute  
**Michael Rossner**, Executive Director, The Rockefeller University Press  
**Jean-Louis Salager**, Editor-in-Chief, *Journal of Surfactants and Detergents*  
**Randy Schekman**, Editor-in-Chief, *eLife*  
**Sandra Schmid**, former editor, *Molecular Biology of the Cell* and *Traffic*  
**Michael Sheetz**, Director and Principal Investigator, The Mechanobiology Institute, Singapore  
**Robert Shepherd**, Director, Bionics Institute, University of Melbourne  
**Stuart Shieber**, Harvard University  
**Michele Solimena**, Max Planck Institute, Dresden, Germany  
**Tom Stevens**, co-Editor, *Traffic*; Professor, University of Oregon  
**Jennifer L. Stow**, Deputy Director, Research, Institute for Molecular Bioscience, The University of Queensland  
**Robert Tjian**, President, Howard Hughes Medical Institute  
**Gerrit van Meer**, Dean of the Faculty of Sciences, Utrecht University  
**Michael Way**, Editor-in-Chief, *Journal of Cell Science*  
**Liz Williams**, Executive Editor, *The Journal of Cell Biology*  
**Mitsuhiro Yanagida**, Editor-in-Chief, *Genes to Cells*  
**Alpha Yap**, Head, Division of Molecular Cell Biology, Institute for Molecular Bioscience  
**Marino Zerial**, Max Planck Director, Max Planck Institute of Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics, Dresden  
**Ya-ping Zhang**, Vice-President of the Chinese Academy of Sciences

