February 12, 2016

Susan R. Wessler, Ph.D.
Distinguished Professor of Genetics
Department of Botany and Plant Sciences
University of California, Riverside
susan.wessler@ucr.edu

Dear Professor Wessler,

I am sending you this email letter because you refused to speak with me when I called you this morning. Today is an important reminder that President Abraham Lincoln and the thirty-eighth Congress created the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) on March 3, 1963 for the purpose of "*providing independent, objective advice to the nation on matters related to science and technology*". I am confident that President Lincoln and the thirty-eighth Congress would be shocked to learn that, in the year of a U.S. Presidential election, NAS has just conducted a secret Soviet-style election of a Lysenko-like NAS President. They would be further shocked to learn that the NAS President-Elect is actively engaged in the suppression of dissent on three scientific issues of great importance to the nation and even greater importance to California.

Thus, concerned scientists like myself are making extensive efforts to inform the current Congress and the general public about the three scientific issues, the suppression of scientific dissent, and NAS. For instance, on February 8, 2016, Dr. Peter Wood met with five key staff members of the U.S. House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology about his December 9, 2015 National Association of Scholars letter (https://www.nas.org/articles/nas_letter) and my attached February 8, 2016 "Summary of Findings to Date Regarding Marcia K. McNutt, *Science*, and National Academy of Sciences, and Their Suppression of Scientific Dissent."

For your information, I am so passionate about honesty and integrity in science because I was trained by the fourth graduate of the Bronx High School of Science to win the Nobel Prize. Like his parents, my parents instilled in me "two qualities which became the foundation of my personal and professional life. One is an unbounded sense of optimism; the other is a strong feeling as to the importance of using one's mind for the betterment of mankind." You should learn more about me by watching this five-minute May 17, 2015 YouTube (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MqazxtsN0t0).

Please speak with me about ways in which you, a UC Professor with public service obligations, can help the greater Riverside area and California by promoting scientific integrity at UC, CARB, and SCAQMD regarding LNT, PM2.5, and AGW. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

James E. Enstrom, Ph.D., M.P.H.
UCLA and Scientific Integrity Institute
http://scientificintegrityinstitute.org/
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(310) 472-4274

Summary of Findings to Date Regarding Marcia K. McNutt, *Science*, and National Academy of Sciences, and Their Connection to Suppression of Scientific Dissent

James E. Enstrom, Ph.D., M.P.H.

February 8, 2016

Incestuous relationship exists between *Science*, AAAS, NAS, and California—last five *Science* Editors-in-Chief dating back to 1985 (McNutt, Alberts, Kennedy, Bloom, Koshland) are NAS and AAAS members with careers in California; Alberts was also NAS President; new AAAS President Schaal selected NAS President-Elect McNutt; AAAS Board is dominated by UC faculty or graduates; NAS President Cicerone and NAS Executive Officer Darling had long careers at UC and know about the extreme regulatory policies and liberal bias in California.

NAS officials (Cicerone, Darling, and Hinchman) and key NAS members (Schaal and Wessler) have refused to release any details about the January election of McNutt, the only candidate for new NAS President. They have refused to identify all members of the Presidential Nomination Committee, the number of votes for and against McNutt, or the total number of votes by state.

Of the 2,095 active U.S. members of NAS, 618 (29.5%) are from CA, 823 (39.3%) are from five other liberal states (MA, NY, NJ, MD, IL), and there are only 138 (6.6%) from the 24 states with 1-14 members each, and 8 states have no members. Based on public information about 113 NAS members in Los Angeles County, NAS is overwhelmingly and increasingly dominated by Democrats. Among 61 members born before 1945, 14.8% are Republicans; among 52 members born since 1945, 7.7% are Republicans.

Only two of the ~600 NAS members who received the December 9, 2015 National Association of Scholars letter by Wood have expressed concern about McNutt or suppression of scientific dissent on three important regulatory-related issues (LNT, PM2.5, AGW), which are described in the letter. These two members have experienced retaliation because of their "politically incorrect" views on other science. NAS member Lindzen has published that environmental activists like Cicerone, Holdren, Hanson, and Gleick, were admitted to NAS via a special ad hoc committee. NAS member Goodman has published evidence that USGS Director McNutt failed to investigate his misconduct complaint. Other concerns about McNutt are forthcoming.

McNutt issued a February 5, 2016 retraction of the May 7, 2004 *Science* Report by Lina A. Gugliotti and May 28, 2015 retraction of the December 12, 2014 *Science* Report by Michael LaCour. However, she absolutely refuses to peer-review or investigate in any way the massive evidence submitted to her since June 2015 of scientific misconduct regarding three *Science* papers involving LNT, PM2.5, and AGW. If *Science* and/or qualified NAS members peer-reviewed this misconduct evidence, found it to be accurate, and published it, this evidence could lead to major changes in related U.S. regulatory policy, primarily coming from EPA.

Since McNutt, *Science*, and NAS refuse to evaluate or publish evidence of scientific misconduct, the boarder scientific community, the general public, and Congress should evaluate the evidence. If the evidence is valid, McNutt, *Science*, and NAS must be held accountable for failure to act.

February 5, 2016

James F. Hinchman, Esq.
NAS Deputy Executive Officer
jhinchman@nas.edu

Dear Mr. Hinchman,

I received your telephone message today in response to my request to discuss your February 1, 2016 email message, National Academy of Sciences (NAS) President-Elect Marcia K. McNutt, and the serious concerns about her that are contained in the December 9, 2015 National Association of Scholars letter (https://www.nas.org/articles/nas_letter).

I request that you, NAS President Ralph J. Cicerone, and/or NAS Executive Officer Bruce B. Darling encourage *Science* Editor-in-Chief McNutt to peer review the massive National Association of Scholars evidence of scientific misconduct in *Science* articles that has been submitted to her since June 4, 2015. These *Science* articles provide an important part of the justification for highly contested environmental regulations that adversely impact the United States, particularly California. If Dr. McNutt continues to suppress this strong evidence of scientific misconduct, then NAS should find a way to get it peer reviewed.

Regarding NAS Home Secretary Susan R. Wessler, I will henceforth deal only with her obligations as a UC Riverside Distinguished Professor to uphold integrity in scientific research and to engage in public service. I know she understands that research integrity does not allow suppression of scientific dissent, particularly the type of suppression that is described in the July 16, 1965 *Science* article "The Rise and Fall of Lysenko" (http://science.sciencemag.org/content/149/3681/275). Dr. Wessler can certainly encourage Dr. McNutt to peer review evidence of scientific misconduct in *Science* articles.

Thank you very much for your attention to this matter, which I look forward to discussing with you over the phone.

Sincerely yours,

James E. Enstrom, Ph.D., M.P.H.
UCLA and Scientific Integrity Institute
jenstrom@ucla.edu
(310) 472-4274

cc: NAS President Ralph J. Cicerone <rcicerone@nas.edu>
NAS Executive Officer Bruce B. Darling <bdarling@nas.edu>
UCR Distinguished Professor Susan R. Wessler <susan.wessler@ucr.edu>

From: Hinchman, Jim <JHinchman@nas.edu>
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2016 6:38 AM
To: jenstrom@ucla.edu
Subject: Your January 22 letter to Dr. Susan Wessler

James E. Enstrom, Ph.D., M.P.H.
UCLA and Scientific Integrity Institute

Dear Dr. Enstrom:

I am writing in response to your January 22 email letter to Dr. Susan Wessler, Home Secretary of the National Academy of Sciences. In your letter you ask Dr. Wessler to release to the public the names of the members of the committee that nominated Dr. Marsha McNutt to be the next president of the Academy, the subsequent votes for and against her election, and the number of votes by state. You also raise a number of issues related to the process by which new members of the Academy are elected.

The National Academy of Sciences is a private membership organization. The members of the Academy are responsible for its governance, including the election of the Academy's president and its new members. These elections are conducted in accordance with the Academy's constitution and bylaws. They are private matters among the members and, while the results of officer and new member elections are released to the public, details regarding the election process are not.

I and the other staff members in the Academy's Washington offices are in a better position to handle your questions and concerns regarding the Academy than are officers like Dr. Wessler, who serve in only a part time capacity and continue to have significant responsibilities and time commitments at their home institutions. It is therefore Dr. Wessler's strong desire that you not communicate with her further. If you have additional questions or issues regarding the Academy that you would like to raise, please address them to me. My contact information is below.

Sincerely,

James F. Hinchman

James F. Hinchman
NAS/NRC Deputy Executive Officer
NRC Chief Operating Officer
202-334-3000
jhinchman@nas.edu

From: Marcia McNutt <mmcnutt@aaas.org>
Sent: Friday, January 29, 2016 3:21 PM
To: James E. Enstrom <jenstrom@ucla.edu>
Subject: Re: Important Request re Science & NAS & Scientific Dissent

Dr. Enstrom:

There are literally thousands of academic journals available for you to publish you work. Science only publishes the highest quality 6%. Please do not take it personally that your work did not get published in Science. Most submissions do not. There are many other journals that will review your research. If every researcher whose work was rejected without review accused me of suppression of scientific dissent, the entire world would be joining you. I assure you that they understand what a rejection from Science means.

Sincerely,

Marcia McNutt

AAASAAASAAASAAASAAASAAASAAASAAASAAASAAASAAAS
Dr. Marcia K. McNutt
Editor-in-Chief, *Science* journals
American Association for the Advancement of Science
1200 New York Avenue N.W.
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(202) 326-6505 (w)
(831) 915-4699 (c)
mmcnutt@aaas.org
AAASAAASAAASAAASAAASAAASAAASAAASAAASAAASAAAS

From: "James E. Enstrom" <jenstrom@ucla.edu>
Date: Friday, January 29, 2016 at 6:09 PM
To: Marcia McNutt <mmcnutt@aaas.org>
Cc: "'Susan R. Wessler'" <susan.wessler@ucr.edu>, "'Barbara A. Schaal'" <schaal@wustl.edu>, 'Peter Wood' <pwood@nas.org>
Subject: Important Request re Science & NAS & Scientific Dissent

January 29, 2016

Marcia K. McNutt, Ph.D.
Editor-in-Chief, *Science*
President-Elect, National Academy of Sciences
mmcnutt@aaas.org

Dear Editor-in-Chief McNutt,

Regarding your recent communications with 'Bruin GOP', I want to assure you that "Wood and Enstrom" are not "detractors" who make "baseless accusations" regarding your "candidacy for the NAS presidency." We are both very accomplished academics and we have uncovered very strong evidence that *Science* has suppressed scientific dissent on three important issues (LNT, PM2.5, and AGW). Also, we have found that there is an incestuous relationship between the *Science* Editor-in-Chief, the AAAS President, and the NAS Home Secretary that is unhealthy for science in America.

In order to properly understand my above statements, please carefully read everything in the attached PDF: this email letter, my January 22, 2016 and December 22, 2015 email letters to NAS Home Secretary Susan R. Wessler, my January 15, 2016 email letter to AAAS President-Elect Barbara A. Schaal, the December 9, 2015 National Association of Scholars letter by Dr. Peter Wood, my June 4, 2015 email letter to you, and the June 6-7, 2015 Wall Street Journal editorial "Scientific Fraud and Politics."

All of this started on June 4, 2015, when I emailed you 72 pages of evidence of scientific misconduct in PM2.5 epidemiology and you refused to examine my evidence in any way. Since then the evidence challenging the validity of LNT, PM2.5, and AGW has gotten stronger and *Science* has not published any of this evidence. The latest development regarding AGW is described in the January 28, 2016 Daily Caller article "300 Scientists Want NOAA To Stop Hiding Its Global Warming Data" (http://dailycaller.com/2016/01/28/300-scientists-want-noaa-to-stop-hiding-its-global-warming-data/).

If you want to demonstrate that *Science* does not suppress dissent on important scientific issues, please reconsider your 2015 rejections regarding LNT, PM2.5, and AGW. You can start by internally and/or externally peer reviewing the evidence on these issues that you have received. In the meantime, I will continue explaining the problems that exist at *Science*, AAAS, and NAS to groups like 'Bruin GOP'. Indeed, I am relating the current situation to the ultimate example of the suppression of scientific dissent, which is very well explained in the July 16, 1965 *Science* article "The Rise and Fall of Lysenko" (http://science.sciencemag.org/content/149/3681/275). Thank you very much for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely yours,

James E. Enstrom, Ph.D., M.P.H.
UCLA and Scientific Integrity Institute
jenstrom@ucla.edu
(310) 472-4274

cc: Susan R. Wessler, Ph.D. <susan.wessler@ucr.edu>
Barbara A. Schaal, Ph.D. <schaal@wustl.edu>
Peter Wood, Ph.D. <pwood@nas.org>
Bruin GOP

January 22, 2016

Susan R. Wessler, Ph.D.
Home Secretary
National Academy of Sciences
Distinguished Professor of Genetics
Department of Botany and Plant Sciences
University of California, Riverside
susan.wessler@ucr.edu

Dear Professor Wessler,

I am writing to you and Professor Barbara A. Schaal as a follow-up to my December 22, 2015 letter to you (http://www.scientificintegrityinstitute.org/Wessler122215.pdf), my January 5, 2016 telephone conversation with you, and my January 15, 2016 letter to Dr. Schaal (http://www.scientificintegrityinstitute.org/Schaal011516.pdf). I understand that the NAS election to confirm Dr. Marcia K. McNutt as the next NAS President ends on January 25, 2016. Since you are conducting this election, I request that you publicly reveal: 1) the names of all members of the NAS Presidential Nominating Committee and 2) the total number of votes for and against Dr. McNutt and the number of votes by state.

Also, I request that you and incoming AAAS President Schaal issue a statement opposing the suppression of dissent on controversial scientific issues, such as the three described in the December 9, 2015 National Association of Scholars letter "Concerns about the National Academy of Sciences and Scientific Dissent" (https://www.nas.org/articles/nas_letter). Your statement should encourage peer review and publication in *Science* of valid evidence contesting the 'consensus' view on major scientific issues, such as, LNT, PM2.5, and AGW.

You stated to me over the phone that you are not familiar with any of these controversial issues and that you do not want to learn about them, particularly the ways in which they adversely impact the greater Riverside area. However, you signed the May 7, 2010 *Science* Letter to the Editor about the AGW issue "Climate Change and the Integrity of Science," which was organized by environmental activist Dr. Peter H. Gleick and signed by 255 NAS members (http://science.sciencemag.org/content/328/5979/689). The Letter contains highly contested claims like "There is compelling, comprehensive, and consistent objective evidence that humans are changing the climate in ways that threaten our societies and the ecosystems on which we depend." There is an immediate need for *Science* to publish evidence disputing these claims.

Renowned AGW skeptic and NAS member Richard S. Lindzen wrote an important 2012 Euresis Journal article, "Climate science: is it designed to answer questions?" (http://arxiv.org/ftp/arxiv/papers/0809/0809.3762.pdf), which describes activism within NAS. He stated that given the enthusiasm for climate science that began in the late 1980s, the NAS created a loophole for electing new members. Specifically, "The vetting procedure is generally rigorous, but for over 20 years, there was a Temporary Nominating Group for the Global Environment to provide a back door for the election of candidates who were environmental activists, bypassing the conventional vetting procedure. Members, so elected, proceeded to join

existing sections where they hold a veto power over the election of any scientists unsympathetic to their position. Moreover, they are almost immediately appointed to positions on the executive council, and other influential bodies within the Academy. One of the members elected via the Temporary Nominating Group, Ralph Cicerone, is now president of the National Academy. Prior to that, he was on the nominating committee for the presidency. It should be added that there is generally only a single candidate for president." Others elected to the NAS via this route include AGW activists James E. Hansen, John P. Holdren, and Peter H. Gleick. As strong evidence of his NAS activism, Dr. Gleick has faced criminal referral since April 2, 2012 because of his illegal conduct against the Heartland Institute, an organization that is skeptical of AGW (https://www.heartland.org/sites/default/files/criminal_referral_of_peter_gleick.pdf).

New concerns about Dr. McNutt are contained in the January 20, 2016 Huffington Post column by NAS member Corey S. Goodman about two controversies "The President's Unfinished Promise: The Federal Government Still Lacks a Meaningful Scientific Integrity Policy" (http://www.huffingtonpost.com/corey-s-goodman/scientific-integrity-policy_b_9024578.html). Regarding the 'oyster war' at Drakes Estero controversy, Dr. Goodman states "In December 2012, I alerted then-USGS Director Dr. Marcia McNutt (currently Editor of Science Magazine and soon-to-be President of the National Academy of Sciences) to the misrepresentation of Stewart's report since it involved USGS officials. She agreed the misrepresentation was serious, and said she would instruct her Scientific Integrity Officer to open an investigation. After many months, and with no response to repeated emails to McNutt or her Scientific Integrity Officer, I filed a formal scientific misconduct complaint in May 2013 with the Secretary of the Interior. . . . It took Interior over eight months to interview the key witness, Dr. Stewart, as to whether his scientific report and conclusions had been altered by USGS and NPS officials (Stewart was never asked the key question). In November 2014, five months after the Department of the Interior won the court battle, the USGS Scientific Integrity Officer, Alan Thornhill, sent me a two-sentence dismissal to my 164-page misconduct complaint. He wrote: "... *we did not find misconduct or a loss of scientific integrity and the case is dismissed*."

You and Dr. Schaal must address the serious issues raised about Dr. McNutt, *Science*, AAAS, and NAS in this letter and in prior communications, particularly regarding the NAS election of Dr. McNutt and the suppression of scientific dissent on three issues (LNT, PM2.5, and AGW). If you do not address these issues, I will present my growing evidence of liberal bias and liberal activism by Dr. McNutt, *Science*, AAAS, and NAS in key forums during the next nine months.

Thank you very much for your consideration regarding this important request.

Sincerely yours,

James E. Enstrom, Ph.D., M.P.H.
UCLA and Scientific Integrity Institute
jenstrom@ucla.edu
(310) 472-4274

cc: Barbara A. Schaal <schaal@wustl.edu>
Peter Wood <pwood@nas.org>

From: "James E. Enstrom" <jenstrom@ucla.edu>
To: "'Susan R. Wessler'" <susan.wessler@ucr.edu>
Subject: Important Request Regarding NAS and Scientific Dissent
Date: Tue, 22 Dec 2015 09:47:30 -0800

December 22, 2015

Susan R. Wessler, Ph.D.
Home Secretary
National Academy of Sciences
Distinguished Professor of Genetics
Department of Botany and Plant Sciences
University of California, Riverside
susan.wessler@ucr.edu

Dear Professor Wessler,

I helped Dr. Peter Wood prepare his December 9, 2015 National Association of Scholars email letter to California members of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) "Concerns about the National Academy of Sciences and Scientific Dissent" (https://www.nas.org/articles/nas_letter), which you have received. I am writing to you about this email letter because you are both the Home Secretary of the National Academy of Sciences and a UC Riverside Distinguished Professor (http://newsroom.ucr.edu/2547).

First, in your role as NAS Home Secretary, I request that you send the email letter to all NAS members, since it deals with serious concerns about suppression of scientific dissent and Dr. Marcia K. McNutt as the next NAS President. Please let me know if you cannot send this email letter to NAS members.

Second, in your role as UC Riverside Distinguished Professor, I request that you become at least somewhat familiar with the three scientific controversies described in the email letter because all three have direct relevance to current environmental regulations in California. These regulations originate from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), California Air Resources Board (CARB), and South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). Based on the detailed evidence described in the email letter, I can make a strong case that these regulations are scientifically unjustified and are hurting California businesses and the California economy.

Additional evidence against these regulations is contained in my July 13, 2015 letter to the Moreno Valley City Council about the World Logistics Center (WLC) Final Environmental Impact Report (http://www.scientificintegrityinstitute.org/WLCFEIR071315.pdf). The WLC is located about ten miles from UC Riverside and could create new 20,000 blue collar jobs in the greater Riverside area. However, the WLC is being opposed by CARB and SCAQMD for scientifically unjustified reasons.

Finally, please read my unanswered August 31, 2015 letter to UC Riverside Professor and UC Academic Senate Chair J. Daniel Hare regarding the illegal appointments of several UC Professors on the Scientific Review Panel on Toxic Air Contaminants (SRP) (http://www.scientificintegrityinstitute.org/UCASSRP083115.pdf). The SRP has played an important role in scientifically unjustified regulations by CARB and SCAQMD.

Thank you very much for your consideration regarding this important request.

Sincerely yours,

James E. Enstrom, Ph.D., M.P.H.
UCLA and Scientific Integrity Institute
jenstrom@ucla.edu
(310) 472-4274

January 15, 2016

Barbara A. Schaal, Ph.D.
Chair, Presidential Nominating Committee
National Academy of Sciences
President Elect
American Association for the Advancement of Science
Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and
Mary-Dell Chilton Distinguished Professor of Biology
Washington University, St. Louis
schaal@wustl.edu
schaal@biology.wustl.edu

Dear Professor Schaal,

I am writing again to request that you respond to my January 7, 2015 email letter regarding the National Association of Scholars email letter by Dr. Peter Wood to you and numerous other members of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) "Concerns about the National Academy of Sciences and Scientific Dissent" (https://www.nas.org/articles/nas_letter). Based a January 11, 2016 message from NAS Home Secretary Susan R. Wessler, NAS voting for Dr. Marcia K. McNutt will continue until January 25, 2015, after which time I assume the election of Dr. McNutt as the next NAS President will be officially confirmed.

I am disturbed about several aspects of this election: 1) Dr. McNutt is the only candidate for NAS President; 2) you and Dr. Wessler have not expressed any concern that the National Association of Scholars email letter will not be seen by all NAS members; and 3) you have not revealed to me the names of the other NAS Presidential Nominating Committee members.

Also, I am disturbed that you are have expressed no concern about my December 22, 2015 letter to UC Riverside Professor Wessler (http://scientificintegrityinstitute.org/wessler122215.pdf). This letter makes clear that *Science* Editor-in-Chief McNutt has been directly involved with suppressing dissent on three important scientific issues (linear no threshold dose response, fine particulate matter epidemiology, and anthropogenic global warming). All three issues are having an adverse socioeconomic impact on the greater Riverside area, indeed on all of California, because of draconian California air pollution regulations that are based upon "consensus" views on these scientific issues.

Thus, in addition to you, I am reaching out to the February 11-15, 2016 AAAS Annual Meeting Program Co-Chair France A. Córdova, a former UC Riverside Chancellor, and to current NAS President Ralph J. Cicerone, a former UC Irvine Chancellor. Both of these distinguished scientists are familiar with the three scientific issues and their impact on California because of they have had important careers in California. I hope that all three of you will encourage discussion of the National Association of Scholars letter at the AAAS Meeting.

One opportunity is the February 12, 2016 session on "Peer Review for Public Trust." The organizers of this session, *Science* Editor Brad Wible and Dr. McNutt, are the very scientists who **refused** to peer review massive and meticulously documented evidence of scientific misconduct in fine particulate matter epidemiology, which was submitted to them on July 20, 2015 by nine distinguished academics. Panelist and former Deputy Editor of *NEJM* and *JAMA* Drummond Rennie should be particularly concerned about refusal to peer review massive evidence of scientific misconduct.

A second opportunity is the February 14, 2016 session on "Fostering Integrity in Science: An Action Agenda." Panelist and Georgia Tech Professor Robert M. Nerem will be discussing the new National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine report *Integrity of Science*, which "examines the most significant challenges facing the research enterprise in fostering integrity and develops an action agenda for researchers and other stakeholders." Evidence of suppression of scientific dissent should be of great interest to this panel.

A third opportunity is the February 14, 2016 session on "Integrating Science into Policy: What Works and Why." Panelist and Arizona State Professor Daniel Sarewitz will be discussing the very divisive issue of climate change, particularly a dispute over attribution of climate impacts between President Obama's science advisor John Holdren and University of Colorado climate scientist Roger Pielke, Jr. The suppression of climate change dissent by Dr. McNutt, as described in the National Association of Scholars letter, is highly relevant to this dispute.

I hope that those of you who receive this message take it seriously, because it involves the scientific integrity of *Science*, AAAS, and NAS. As stated in the summary of one of the above sessions "Erosion of public trust in science due to such issues [transparency, reproducibility, and falsification] has the potential to be devastating." If the leadership of *Science*, AAAS, and NAS does not address scientific integrity and suppression of scientific dissent, these issues will be addressed in other forums, particularly during this year.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

James E. Enstrom, Ph.D., M.P.H.
UCLA and Scientific Integrity Institute
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cc: Susan R. Wessler <susan.wessler@ucr.edu>
Geraldine L. Richmond <richmond@uoregon.edu>
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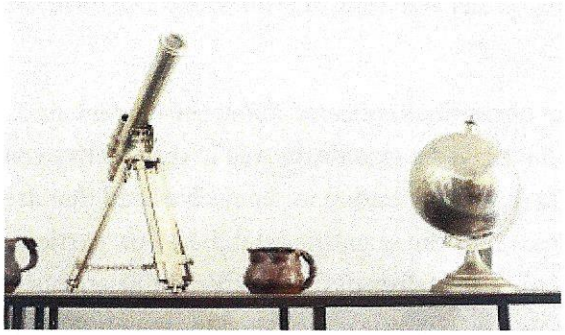
Daniel Sarewitz <Daniel.Sarewitz@asu.edu>
Peter Wood <pwood@nas.org>

Concerns about National Academy of Sciences and Scientific Dissent

Dec 15, 2015 | Peter Wood



Introductory note: NAS president Peter Wood sent the following letter by email on December 9, 2015 to California members of the National Academy of Sciences.

Dear Members of the National Academy of Sciences,

This is an NAS to NAS letter—which requires some "disambiguation." I am president of the National Association of Scholars, founded in 1987, and whose organizers apparently didn't give much thought to the space already occupied by those initials by the National Academy of Sciences, founded 124 years earlier. I'll defer to the Academy's seniority by reserving NAS in what follows for the body of scientists who incorporated during President Lincoln's tenure. The National Association of Scholars is a broad-based group of academics that includes professors in the humanities and social sciences (I'm an anthropologist) as well as the natural sciences.

The occasion for this letter is Dr. Marcia K. McNutt, Editor-in-Chief of *Science*. We are concerned that she is the only official candidate to be the next NAS president. To be clear, the National Association of Scholars does not oppose Dr. McNutt's candidacy. We simply believe

that members of an important national organization like NAS should have at least two candidates to consider when voting for your next president. Indeed, the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), which publishes *Science*, always has two candidates for president and its other elected positions. Other scientific organizations also have two candidates for their elected positions.

Also, we want to bring to your attention our serious concerns about the current state of discourse in the sciences. Dr. McNutt has played a significant role in three active controversies involving national regulatory policy that deserve attention in themselves and that are also part of a larger problem. The larger problem is how the scientific establishment, particularly *Science* and NAS, should evaluate and respond to serious dissent from legitimate scientists. This is an especially important consideration for NAS, which was established to provide "independent, objective advice on issues that affect people's lives worldwide."

The three controversies are:

1. The status of the **linear no-threshold (LNT) dose-response model** for the biological effects of nuclear radiation. The prominence of the model stems from the June 29, 1956 *Science* paper, "Genetic Effects of Atomic Radiation," authored by the NAS Committee on the Biological Effects of Atomic Radiation. This paper is now widely questioned and has been seriously critiqued in many peer-reviewed publications, including two detailed 2015 papers. These criticisms are being taken seriously around the world, as summarized in a December 2, 2015 *Wall Street Journal* commentary. In August 2015 four distinguished critics of LNT made a formal request to Dr. McNutt to examine the evidence of fundamental flaws in the 1956 paper and retract it. However, on August 11, 2015 Dr. McNutt rejected this request without even reviewing the detailed evidence. Furthermore, Dr. McNutt did not even consider recusing herself and having independent reviewers examine evidence that challenges the validity of both a *Science* paper and an NAS Committee Report.

This is a consequential matter that bears on a great deal of national public policy, as the LNT model has served as the basis for risk assessment and risk management of radiation and chemical carcinogens for decades, but now needs to be seriously reassessed. This reassessment could profoundly alter many regulations from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Environmental Protection Agency, and other government agencies. The relevant documents regarding the 1956 *Science* paper and Dr. McNutt can be examined at www.nas.org/images/documents/LNT.pdf.

2. Extensive evidence of scientific misconduct in the epidemiology of **fine particulate air pollution** (PM2.5) and its relationship to mortality. Since 1997 EPA has claimed that lifetime inhalation of about a teaspoon of particles with diameter less than 2.5 microns *causes* premature death in the United States and it established an national regulation based on this claim. *Science* has provided extensive news coverage of this issue and its regulatory significance, but has never published any scientific criticism of this questionable claim, which is largely based on nontransparent research.

Earlier this year, nine accomplished scientists and academics submitted to *Science*

well-documented evidence of misconduct by several of the PM2.5 researchers relied upon by EPA. The evidence of misconduct was first submitted to Dr. McNutt in a detailed June 4, 2015 email letter, then in a detailed July 20, 2015 Policy Forum manuscript "Transparent Science is Necessary for EPA Regulations," and finally in an August 17, 2015 Perspective manuscript "Particulate Matter Does Not Cause Premature Deaths." Dr. McNutt and two *Science* editors immediately rejected the letter and the manuscripts and never conducted any internal or external review of the evidence. This a consequential matter because many multi-billion dollar EPA air pollution regulations, such as, the Clean Power Plan, are primarily justified by the claim that PM2.5 is killing Americans. The relevant documents regarding this controversy can be examined at https://www.nas.org/images/documents/PM2.5.pdf.

3. *Science* promotes the so-called **consensus model of climate change** and excludes any contrary views. This issue has become so polarized and polarizing that it is difficult to bring up, but at some point the scientific community will have to reckon with the dramatic discrepancies between current climate models and substantial parts of the empirical record. Recent evidence of *Science* bias on this issue is the June 26, 2015 article by Dr. Thomas R. Karl, "Possible artifacts of data biases in the recent global surface warming hiatus"; the July 3, 2015 McNutt editorial, "The beyond-two-degree inferno"; the November 13, 2015 McNutt editorial, "Climate warning, 50 years later"; and the November 25, 2015 AAAS News Release, "AAAS Leads Coalition to Protest Climate Science Inquiry."

Dr. McNutt's position is, of course, consistent with the official position of the AAAS. But the attempt to declare that the "pause" in global warming was an illusion has not been accepted by several respected and well-informed scientists. One would not know this, however, from reading *Science*, which has declined to publish any dissenting views. One can be a strong supporter of the consensus model and yet be disturbed by the role which *Science* has played in this controversy. Dr. McNutt and the journal have acted more like partisan activists than like responsible stewards of scientific standards confronted with contentious claims and ambiguous evidence. The relevant documents and commentary regarding the Karl paper and McNutt editorials can be examined at https://www.nas.org/images/documents/Climate_Change.pdf.

All three of these controversies have arisen on issues in which a strong degree of scientific consensus became intertwined with public policy and institutional self-interest. That intertwining can create selective blindness.

Dr. McNutt has in her career found herself faced more than once with the challenge of what to do when an entrenched orthodoxy meets a substantial scientific challenge. The challenge in each case could itself prove to be mistaken, but it met what most scientists would concede to be the threshold criteria to deserve a serious hearing. Yet in each case Dr. McNutt chose to reinforce the orthodoxy by shutting the door on the challenge.

The three areas that I sketched above, however, seem to have such prominence in public policy that they would warrant an even greater investment in time, care, and attention than would be normally the case. In that light, Dr. McNutt's dismissive treatment of scientific criticisms is disturbing.

I bring these matters to your attention in the hope of accomplishing two things: raise awareness that the three issues represent threats to the integrity of science arising from the all-too-human tendency to turn ideas into orthodoxies; and suggest that it might be wise for NAS to nominate as a second candidate for president someone who has a reputation for scientific objectivity and fairness and who does not enforce orthodoxy.

I welcome your responses. The National Association of Scholars will present an open forum on these matters with a section reserved specifically for NAS members. Furthermore, I will put you in contact with NAS members who are concerned about Dr. McNutt becoming the next NAS president.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Wood
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Date: Thu, 04 Jun 2015 14:19:42 -0700
To: Marcia K. McNutt <mmcnutt@aaas.org>
From: "James E. Enstrom" <jenstrom@ucla.edu>
Subject: Important Request re AAAS & 'Secret Science Reform'
Cc: Geraldine L. Richmond <richmond@uoregon.edu>, Carlos J. Bustamante <carlosb@berkeley.edu>,
Michael Gazzaniga <michael.gazzaniga@psych.ucsb.edu>, Elizabeth F. Loftus <eloftus@uci.edu>,
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June 4, 2015

Marcia K. McNutt, Ph.D.
Editor-in-Chief, Science
mmcnutt@aaas.org

Dear Editor-in-Chief McNutt,

On May 28, 2015, Science retracted the December 12, 2014 paper by Michael LaCour and Donald Green because, in part, the underlying data is not available to independently confirm the paper's findings. Science requires Data and Materials Availability for the papers that it publishes. Science has written extensively between July 25, 1997 and August 9, 2013 about the use of the relationship between fine particulate air pollution (PM2.5) and mortality to justify costly EPA regulations and the lack of access to the data underlying this relationship.

Because this 'secret science' data has never been available for independent analysis, Congress has introduced the Secret Science Reform Act to "prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency from proposing, finalizing, and disseminating regulations or assessments that are based upon science that is not transparent or reproducible." However, AAAS has written at least three letters to Congress raising objections to an act which requires access to underlying data. I request that AAAS reconsider its objections to this act and take a clear position in favor of access to the data underlying the PM2.5-mortality relationship. During the past ten years I have assembled extensive evidence that scientific misconduct has occurred in PM2.5 epidemiology and on December 1, 2014, I submitted 65 pages of such evidence to EPA (http://www.scientificintegrityinstitute.org/JEECPP120114.pdf). On February 17, 2015, I submitted 72 pages of similar evidence to the UCLA Vice Chancellor for Research (http://www.scientificintegrityinstitute.org/Economou021715.pdf). My evidence is far more extensive than the 27 pages of evidence that supported the retraction of the LaCour and Green paper.

I request that you and the AAAS Board of Directors examine my evidence, much of which involves UCLA Professor Michael Jerrett, who is at the same university as LaCour. The stakes are high for both scientific integrity and the U.S. economy. The PM2.5-mortality relationship is currently being used as a major justification for many major EPA regulations, most recently EPA's Clean Power Plan. The CPP has been estimated to cost up to $479 billion over the next 15 years and a strong case can be made that it is not scientifically or economically justified. I will be giving a talk about "EPA's Clean Power Plan and PM2.5-related Co-benefits" on June 11, 2015 at the Tenth International Conference on Climate Change in Washington, DC. You and others from Science and AAAS are welcome to attend my presentation.

Last Friday I sent the email message below to most of the scientists involved with PM2.5 epidemiology misconduct and no one has yet responded. I hope that Science and AAAS will take my evidence of misconduct seriously. In any case, I am going to use this evidence to support the April 11, 2014 Lancet Comment of Editor Richard Horton, who stated, in part, "The case against science is straightforward: much of the scientific literature, perhaps half, may simply be untrue . . . . science has taken a turn towards darkness."

Thank you very much for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely yours,

James E. Enstrom, Ph.D., M.P.H.
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REVIEW & OUTLOOK

Scientific Fraud and Politics

A press release from the Union of Concerned Scientists recently hit our desk titled "Science Leaders Decry Congressional Attacks on Science and Science-Based Policy." It flagged an op-ed in the journal Science that laments "a growing and troubling assault on the use of credible scientific knowledge." Hmmm. Is this about science, or politics?

Look who is lecturing Republicans about scientific truth.

Since the scientists brought it up, which is the greater threat to their enterprise: the Republicans who run Congress, or the most spectacular scientific fraud in a generation, which was published and then retracted by the journal Science?

Last year UCLA political science grad student and maybe soon-to-be Princeton professor Michael LaCour released stunning findings from a field trial on gay marriage called "When Contact Changes Minds." He found that a 20-minute conservation with a house-to-house canvasser could convert huge numbers of opponents into supporters, at least if the canvassers explained they were gay and told personal stories.

The study quickly became a media sensation, the most talked-about poli-sci paper in years, and it led gay-rights activists including some working on the Ireland referendum to retool their voter outreach.

The problem is that Mr. LaCour stands accused of faking everything from start to finish. Ph.D. candidates at Berkeley David Broockman and Josh Kalla tried but failed to replicate Mr. LaCour's results. They then noticed unusual statistical irregularities in Mr. LaCour's survey panel. He now says he pulled a Hillary Clinton and deleted his raw data. But the canvassing firm he claimed to have employed has never heard of the project—and there is no proof anyone was ever contacted, much less changed their minds.

Mr. LaCour denies wrongdoing and in a response paper assailed the motives of Messrs. Broockman and Kalla, whose violations of academic decorum include their decision to go public and "bypass the peer-review process." That would be the same process that failed to catch Mr. LaCour's non-findings at Science magazine.

The larger question is why anyone invested Mr. LaCour's paper with the authority of "science." Experience and common sense suggest that persuading people to reconsider their opinions is difficult. An uninvited nag carrying on about politics on the front porch sounds like one of the less successful approaches.

Then again, the study flattered the ideological sensibilities of liberals, who tend to believe that resistance to gay marriage can only be the artifact of ignorance or prejudice, not moral or religious conviction. Mr. LaCour's purported findings let them claim that science had proved them right.

Similar bias contaminates inquiries across the social sciences, which often seem to exist so liberals can claim that "studies show" some political assertion to be empirical. Thus they can recast stubborn political debates about philosophy and values as disputes over facts that can be resolved by science. President Obama is a particular aficionado of this bait and switch.

As for those supposedly "anti-science" Republicans, they stand accused by Science magazine of trying to introduce more transparency and accountability to federal science grants. The House GOP is also guilty of attempting to spend more on the harder sciences, passing a bill last month that allocates money for the National Science Foundation by directorate—for example, boosting engineering spending by 13.2% over 2015 and biology by 12.6%. Money for the social and behavioral sciences declines by 44.9%.

Scientific misconduct does seem to be mercifully rare, but a lesson of the LaCour retraction is to show more humility amid the illusion of scientific omniscience and to be more skeptical of studies that carry heavy political freight. That goes for the profusion of foods that are purported to cause or prevent cancer, and macroeconomic literature that claim to document a stimulus "multiplier."

Meanwhile, Science magazine editors who rebuke politicians might have more authority if their own science wasn't so political.