

April 10, 2024

To  
Mr. Chief of the Cabinet of Ministers, Engineer Nicolás Posse  
c.c. Mr. President of CONICET, Dr. Daniel Salamone  
c.c. Members of the Board of Directors of CONICET

Dear Chief of the Cabinet of Ministers Posse,

I am writing in my role as the President of the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM). SIAM is the largest community in the world of professionals and students who work and study in applied mathematics, computational science, and data science all over the world. Our 13,000 members can be found working in academia, government, industry, and research institutes.

There is wide concern in our community about the continuing existence and viability of the Argentinian ministry of Science and Technology and the plans to curtail or privatize CONICET, the main government agency that fosters the development of science and technology in Argentina. We support our scientific colleagues and friends in Argentina, and encourage you to listen to their call to preserve a world-class scientific community in their Country. We believe that it is in the best interest of Argentina to foster and support a strong national scientific community.

The impact of the mathematical sciences on the economy has been well documented in numerous studies. Two recent reports by Deloitte (an international consulting firm) estimate that mathematics contributes 16% to the GDP of the UK economy, and around 10% to the GDP of the Dutch economy (with similar numbers for Spain, for example). As a mathematician working at a US Department of Energy National Lab, I have first-hand experience of the importance of applied mathematics to key areas of national importance, including power grid, health care, agriculture and the environment, artificial intelligence, and data science.

We hope that the administration in Argentina will continue to support science and mathematics, and view both as a vehicle for growth and a stronger economic future for Argentina. Please do not hesitate to contact me if we can provide more background material.

Yours sincerely,



Sven Leyffer

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