



18 February, 2024

Mr. Chief of the Cabinet of Ministers, Engineer Nicolás Posse

cc: Mr. President of CONICET, Dr. Daniel Salamone  
Members of the Board of Directors of CONICET

I am very sorry to hear that the prestigious Argentine national science and technology system is being systematically shut down. I write on behalf of the Australian Mathematical Society to express my support of science and mathematics in Argentina in troubling times, and to ask you to please work with the Argentinian scientific community to restore a system that can continue to produce important scientific and technological advances.

I do understand that Argentina is suffering through very challenging economic times. However, blocking scientific and technological research is exactly contrary to goals of bringing back economic prosperity. Modern economies rely on scientific technological advances. Blocking and canceling research grants also blocks the economic benefits they achieve. A recent independent study in Australia (released August 2023) showed that government investment in research, through the Australian Research Council (ARC), generated a three-fold return! The *Impact Assessment of ARC-funded Research* report showed further that such research directly led to multi-billion dollar boosts in both economic output of Australia and in income of Australians, and created thousands of jobs across the country.

A flourishing national system for science and technology also leads to important social and cultural benefits, including filling a curiosity-driven human need to understand the world and universe we inhabit. It leads to cooperation and collaboration with other scientists on a global scale. Please reconsider your choices to pull Argentina out of this international science and technology community.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jessica S. Purcell, President  
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