

## Newsletter

As you can see, we have decided to review our graphic Charter. In this issue of our newsletter, you will find:

- an announcement for the search of trainers in topography for Congo
- an article on the scientific integrity by our colleague Jean-Pierre ALIX,
- an open letter to the setting up of an association "Data for Humanity" designed to ensure that the data collected are useful for the development of the whole humanity (already more than 1,000 signatures are collected from scientists!).
- and, from our Canadian sister association, search announcements of trainers for trainers (Ghana) and experts in hotel management and tourism (Sri Lanka). ■

Prof. Robert Laurini, president of USF - AWB

### Congo search trainers in topography

USF - AWB<sup>1</sup> has received the following application on behalf of Arnaud NDOLO. *"In the area that concerns me, particularly topography; I bother to inform you, that Congo has no center for training, or introduction to the topography. Bachelor in sociology, and passionate about topography, I am unfortunately unable to master fully this profession, because of many gaps, notably, by the lack of a good profile, due to the lack of training infrastructure.*

*It's an opportunity for me to tell you how much, your expertise, could be beneficial for young people seeking training, but also, in this segment of the population that has enormous difficulties to exercise this profession according to the rules of the art.*

*So, you want to tell us, what you can do, in the best of your ability; although that is not a university or a similar institution that have consulted you. In advance, we would be very happy to work with you, serving as an interface with other organizations which wish to participate in such a project; While taking account of the particularity of the city of*



*Pointe - Noire (economic capital of Congo, harbor and oil city), where there is no University. Similarly, if the setting up of a company is impracticable in the short*

*or medium-term, our wish would be to help us, in partnership with other NGOs, dealing with training in developing countries, to organize seminars in topography. Your association, as a pilot structure, could then refine the content of each module, resource person and set a schedule, with costs and the places chosen for these courses."*

If any of you are interested, please contact USF - AWB. ■

### Research Integrity, let's speak about it!

This "Research Integrity, let's speak about it" was the motto of a conference recently held in Bordeaux in January 2016, initiated by the M.U.R.S. association and the University of Bordeaux. It was the first one of a series dedicated to research integrity that will next happen in Nancy (2017) and then in Toulouse at the same time as the European Open Science Forum (ESOF, July 2018).

Research integrity has joined the international

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<sup>1</sup> For any contact: Pr. Robert Laurini, President of USF-AWB, 20 Rue René, F- 69100 Villeurbanne; Email: Robert.Laurini@insa-lyon.fr. Web site: <http://www.usf-awb.org>. Association according to French laws, established on January 2, 2010.

arena for a few years and France is now a participant as well as the European Commission. This is a real progress as the main attitude has been for a long time to ignore misconduct (and even hide it sometimes under the carpet) while one was thinking that the numerous a priori controls existing in the Research system were sufficient, and moreover arguing that Research was by nature self-correcting.

Pasteur had nevertheless been showing a long time ago how powerful it was for humanity to distinguish integer scientific thinking from simple beliefs and from empirical knowledge. It is necessary to handle again with the topic of research integrity (RI) at a regular pace!

Recently misconduct or fraud "case" have been related in newspapers and have been a powerful incitation to deal seriously with scientific misconduct. INSERM (French Health Research) had been the first Research institution to react in 1998, when a fraud occurred. Ten years later, the French Minister of Research and Higher Education asked for recommendations that unhappily were not followed ("under the carpet" again). Then the Ethics Committee in French CNRS published a "Deontological Charter for Research Activities" that was endorsed by the Universities considering the large number of research labs shared by those institutions. Finally, the French Ministry has mandated in 2016 Prof. Pierre Corvol, Honorary Prof. and Administrator of College de France, to elaborate a set of recommendations for RI to be enacted in research institutions.



In Europe, the first Code of conduct was elaborated from 2007 by ALLEA (All European Academies) and ESF (European Science Foundation). Subsequently, a network of Integrity officer (ENRIO) was created to reinforce cooperation between people in charge of RI who felt a little isolated. Today the H2020 Framework Programme is supporting the development of RI through Calls and the construction of networks. Commissioner Moedas himself is supporting RI as a priority (see 2015 declaration). At international level, the World Conferences on Research Integrity have been growing since their creation in Lisbon in 2007, and the Singapore Statement has been since it was published triggering reflections in a number of countries. The RI topic has left the neglected area where it was confined.

Error in science, especially when published, cannot be tolerated for an intrinsic reason: integrity is part of research activity, because one has to trust colleagues in the whole world about quality and honesty of their publications. Moreover, when models generate applications, one has to expect that no major error is introduced whether in machines, in their functioning and in their control at a digital era, in the manufacturing of substances for Health or for Environment and in the understanding of climate phenomena... The public needs to keep a high level of trust towards science, as it was carried out in a long period by the scientific general methodology and embodied in many previous discoveries in history.

In France, the recent case of a biologist can be considered as a banner for fighting misconduct: it concerns a senior scientist born in 1972, working on the biology of plants at a fundamental level on interfering RNAs. He appears to be (have been) one of the most brilliant young researchers in his generation. But in 2015, he was the subject of a double investigation, one led by the ETH Zurich (where he got a contract), and the second by CNRS, his employer. The decision was to exclude him from CNRS for two years when back to France. During twelve years his "errors" have not been really detected by "peers", but at the end of 2015, seven publications have been retracted after anomalies have been stated in the published figures (Plant Cell, Pub Peer).

One has to distinguish, in a spirit of justice, different kinds of "errors": some are voluntary, others have been committed bona fide and can be corrected easily, and are paving the history of science. That's the reason why institutions generally deal first with fabrication, falsification of data and plagiarism (FFP), the most severe cases which are recognized at international level. But one has to take into consideration the QRP's (questionable research practices), which are more diffuse, favor errors and often open paths to later repeated fraud.

In order to diminish the level of fraud (towards a zero level?), one has to consider from now on that in a large scientific community a simple a priori evaluation is no longer a sufficient guarantee, and simultaneously that research integrity is a fundamental responsibility of scientists and their institutions. French research institutions have hence adopted a Charter, as a first step,

because they are the most involved as employers. To go one step further, they should systematically adopt public procedures to deal with emerging cases (after a short pre-analysis of its reality). It is important too to heighten awareness of students when they enter the Higher education system and when they choose to start real research, as well as researchers at different stages of their career have to be informed and warned. The online resources might be very useful to increase efficiency and accompany face-to-face training. As an actor, State authorities should provide guarantees by creating an appeal level to correct potential errors, by analyzing annually cases in statistics (typology and numbers) and by making them public. The best level to fight misconduct and fraud would be reached in this case, and help research institutions to manage the life of science.

Ten years ago, quite nothing was said on research integrity, considered as a taboo. Much has been done to increase awareness, but there is still much to do: the recent Report written by Pr Corvol underlines and emphasizes the responsibility of researchers and research institutions as a necessity. Dear reader, if you are interested, you can contact M.U.R.S. Or join the next WCRI, in Amsterdam in 2017. Reader, if the subject seems of interest, you can contact the Pr Laurini, who will forward. Or you look at the next World Conference which will be held in Amsterdam in May 2017, or contact the M.U.R.S. ■

Jean-Pierre ALIX, M.U.R.S., EUROSCIENCE, Honorary senior research Scientist at CNRS, jeanpierrealixf@free.fr

### **Singapore Statement on integrity in research (excerpt)**

#### **Preamble**

The value and benefits of research are vitally dependent on the integrity of research. While there can be and are national and disciplinary differences in the way research is organized and conducted, there are also principles and professional responsibilities that are fundamental to the integrity of research wherever it is undertaken.

#### **Principles**

Honesty in all aspects of research  
accountability in the conduct of research  
Professional courtesy and fairness in working with others.

Good stewardship of research on behalf of others.

See <http://www.singaporestatement.org>. ■

**Data for Humanity**

Information is power and data is its raw material. We are experiencing an unprecedented ascent of Big Data, the development of data science and the increasing omnipresence of data analytics. We are also witnessing both the promise and the peril of the ubiquitous acquisition of personal data by organizations of all types.

Given its novelty, and the current shortcomings of codes of conducts and legal regulations, data entrepreneurs, governments, data scientists and educators have yet to find the right balance between the power that data give and the responsibility that comes with it.

This development of datafication of the world comes at a time with great challenges, such as



climate change, mass migration, deterioration of personal privacy, and protracted conflicts.

Therefore, we believe that it is important to help encouraging people and institutions to use data on sound principles that serve humanity.

We want to bring people from different disciplines and professions together, who share the motivation of using Data for the Common Good and for Human Wellbeing, in order to ensure that data serves humanity.

#### **Goal:**

To bring people and institutions together who share the motivation to use Data for Common Good / human wellbeing

We encourage people and institutions who own and/or do work with data and who share the following principles to sign this letter of support.

#### **Principles:**

- Do not harm
- Use data to help create peaceful coexistence
- Use data to help vulnerable people and people in need
- Use data to preserve and improve natural environment
- Use data to help create a fair world without discrimination. ■

To sign the open letter, please follow this link:

<http://www.bigdata.uni-frankfurt.de/dataforhumanity/>

Among the current 1031 signatories of this initiative:

-Vint Cerf, Google, one of "the fathers of the Internet";

four members of the Independent Expert Advisory Group to the United Nations Secretary-General on a Data Revolution for Sustainable Development (IEAG):

- Professor Alex Pentland, MIT,
- Mr. Robert Kirkpatrick, UN Global Pulse,
- Professor Enrico Giovannini, co-chair of the UN Expert Advisory Group,
- Nicolas de Cordes, VP Marketing Anticipation at Orange Group,

and

- Nicholas B. Dirks, Chancellor of the University of California, Berkeley
- Michael Hengartner, President, University of Zurich
- Oliver Günther, President, University of Potsdam
- Christopher McKee, Interim Vice Chancellor for Research, UC Berkeley
- Ursina Baumgartner, Rektorin, Kalaidos University of Applied Science
- Professor Spiros Simitis, Goethe University, Frankfurt (previous representative for Data protection at the German ministry)
- Princess Nana Yakubu, Founder/CEO of African Poverty Alleviation Initiative
- Jake Porway, Founder and Executive Director, DataKind
- Steve Lohr, New York Times, Pulitzer Price Winner
- Philippe Kahn, Creator of the camera-phone, CEO of Fullpower
- Alon Halevy, CEO Recruit Institute of Technology
- Anjul Bhambhri, Vice President of Architecture at Adobe

- Michael "Monty" Widenius, MySQL inventor, MariaDB Foundation
- Jeff Dean, Google Senior Fellow
- Natascha Vita-More, President Humanity+, Inc.
- Brendan McDonald, United Nation Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
- Helga Portmann, Head Federal Office of Public Health, Switzerland
- Holger Volland, Vice President, Frankfurt Book Fair
- Lester Coutinho, Gates Foundation
- Danah Boyd, Founder, Data & Society Research Institute
- Patrick Gordon, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
- etc; ■

Pr. Roberto Zicari, Professor Roberto V. Zicari, Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany & Visiting Scholar UC Berkeley

Professor Andrej Zwitter, University of Groningen, the Netherlands

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### International Opportunities for Volunteers

World University Service of Canada (WUSC) is harnessing the expertise of Canadian volunteers to enhance program delivery in a variety of countries. These are unique short, medium, and long term opportunities to contribute directly to WUSC's broader work in education, employment and empowerment around the world. Below are two volunteer opportunities that are currently available. For more information and details on other volunteer assignments contact Vicki Campbell at [vcampbell@wusc.ca](mailto:vcampbell@wusc.ca)



### Transforming Teacher Education and Learning (TTEL) Ghana

WUSC is currently recruiting Teacher Training Advisors (5 positions available) for an interesting volunteer opportunity in Ghana. Transforming Teacher Education and Learning (TTEL) Ghana is a four year Government of Ghana Programme (2014 2018) to support the implementation of the new policy framework for PreTertiary Teacher Professional Development and Management. TTEL seeks to

transform the delivery of preservice teacher education in Ghana by improving the quality of teaching and learning through support to relevant national bodies and institutions and all 40 Colleges of Education (CoEs). This programme is being managed by Cambridge Education in association with the Open University UK and WUSC.

Interested applicants can apply online:  
<http://www.wusc.ca/en/volunteeroverseas>

### **Curriculum Development Specialist (Tourism/Hotel Management) Sri Lanka**

Uniterra is a leading Canadian international volunteer cooperation and development program, jointly implemented by the Centre for International Studies and Cooperation (CECI) and World University Service of Canada (WUSC).

Uniterra is currently recruiting a Curriculum Development Specialist to work with the University of Vocational Technology (UNIVOTEC) in Ratmalana, Sri Lanka to support the development of new curriculum in the hotel management and tourism.

For more details on the volunteer position please visit:

[http://agora.ceci.ca/SGC/WUSProje.nsf/va\\_WPO/1202DA6AC0FC5D3685257ECF00443F3B?OpenDocume nt&lg=enok](http://agora.ceci.ca/SGC/WUSProje.nsf/va_WPO/1202DA6AC0FC5D3685257ECF00443F3B?OpenDocume nt&lg=enok)