



Dr. László Lovász  
President  
Hungarian Academy of Sciences  
P.O. Box 1000  
1245 Budapest  
Hungary  
[elnokseg@titkarsag.mta.hu](mailto:elnokseg@titkarsag.mta.hu)  
[balla.andrea@titkarsag.mta.hu](mailto:balla.andrea@titkarsag.mta.hu)  
[simon.tamas@titkarsag.mta.hu](mailto:simon.tamas@titkarsag.mta.hu)

February 14, 2019

Dear Dr. Lovász,

On behalf of the Field Museum in Chicago, I am writing to express my deep concerns about the recent restructuring of governmental funding structures related to the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. I am especially skeptical that this revised funding structure will permit the network of research institutions at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences to retain their standing and reputation as worldwide centers of scientific excellence.

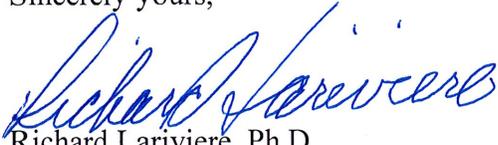
Since opening in 1894, the Field Museum has served as one of the world's most important museums dedicated to science, environment, history, and culture. Currently, the Museum has more than 100 scientists engaged in active research on five continents, and our collections include nearly 30 million specimens and artifacts. Over these years, several of our scientists have conducted collaborative research with scholars associated with the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, and we want you to know that we forcefully protest the revised funding strategy for funding the Academy.

We respect and admire the academic excellence of the Hungarian Academy and the tremendous contributions that it has made to Hungarian, European, and global scholarship. The Academy is a valued member of the international academic community. It has nourished cooperation across countries through the training of young people from Hungary and the entire east European region. It also has enabled young people from Hungary and other parts of the region to more effectively participate in business, governance, scholarship, and law both nationally and internationally. The Academy has complemented and enhanced other institutions of higher education across the region.

We believe that the proposed restructuring will erode the freedoms necessary to ensure the continued success of scientific research, jeopardizing the illustrious, long-standing, tradition of Hungarian scientific research. This would be tragic not only for Hungary but for the entire world. Without the continued development of knowledge and innovation through the advancement of natural and social sciences – independent of political influence – the future of our whole planet is at stake.

I sincerely hope the government will reconsider the proposed restructuring and I want you to know that we stand in solidarity with the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard Lariviere". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R'.

Richard Lariviere, Ph.D.  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Field Museum of Natural History

RWL/wp