

Editorial

S Mahadevan, Chief Editor

Integrity is an indispensable component of the scientific enterprise; once it is compromised, the trust that society has in science and scientists will be seriously eroded. The recent episode involving a report on genetically modified (GM) crops, prepared by the Science Academies of the nation in response to a request from the Ministry of Environment, is an example. In addition to the uncritical acceptance of information on GM crops, sections of the report were found to be taken verbatim from articles biased in favour of GM crops. The Academies had to face severe criticism from different sections of the society, particularly the print media. The only course of action left for the Academies to take that is morally right is to withdraw the report and come up with one that has been prepared with due attention to scientific criteria. It is high time that the scientific community of the country kept its house in order. This is important for reestablishing the faith that society has in the Academies that otherwise do contribute significantly in areas such as scientific publications and science education.

This issue of *Resonance* is honouring Santiago Ramón y Cajal, who is considered as the father of modern neurosciences. With his meticulous observations, Cajal was not only able to decipher the structural organization of the nervous system, but could also relate structure to function. His work led to the proposal of the neuron doctrine where he envisaged that each nerve cell is a discrete entity that could communicate with other neurons through its axons and dendrites. This was the beginning of a clearer understanding of the complex and challenging discipline of neurobiology. In addition to several interesting features including an interview with geophysicist Prof. Vinod Gaur, this issue also has an outstanding review of the thought-provoking book *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Survive* by Jared Diamond.



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