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In these hard times for our Country and for the entire humanity, heated controversy has sparked off within the Italian scientific community. The appropriateness of voicing the opinions gained within the academic studies or supported by the personal experience has been object of discussion.

In particular, associations have emerged, which claimed to be representative of the whole scientific community and to speak to mass media on behalf of the so-called “official science”. We refer to the “Patto Trasversale per la Scienza” (PTS) and its judicial notice against the director of Microbiologia Clinica, Virologia e Diagnostica Bio-emergenze of Ospedale Sacco of Milan because she provided information about some fact she had the opportunity to observe during her practice. These information have been considered contradictory with respect to the claims of the above mentioned association. The same PTS has then reported to the judiciary a pharmacologist who gave an interview to a streaming TV containing similar thesis, even though more radical. The association also asked for the suspension of television stream.

You cannot miss the paradox. Science is based, by definition, on the formulation of new hypothesis and on the needed methodology for support. Moreover, a fair debate is fundamental for the improvement of the knowledge. We feel very offended to know that, on behalf of the entire community it has been asked to silence by law the different opinions beyond the common scientific practice. We believe that our professional integrity has been violated because it has been claimed that the scientific community is a monolithic block whose function is to eliminate every disagreement. We dedicated our studies, self-denial and enthusiasm to our profession and to the widely accepted rules of the scientific method: the fair comparison of ideas and experimental results.

We ask you to take a public action, on behalf of the Accademia dei Lincei, to remember the correct and fair rules of the scientific debate and to recall which are the adequate manners to divulge the discussion. We ask you to eliminate every doubt about the possibility to overcome the Galilean method in scientific research, in the present or even future circumstances.

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[Letter sent to Prof. Giorgio Parisi on April 9th, 2020.](#)