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To the Computer Science Members  
of the Scientific Committee of  
the Brazilian Research Council

Dear Members of the CNPq's Scientific Committee,

I am writing to support Dr. Ruy de Queiroz's request for reconsideration of the Council's recent decision not to renew his research grant.

I have known Ruy de Queiroz since 1990, when I joined the Logic and Computation group at the Department of Computing, Imperial College, where he was then working as a research fellow. The group was led by Professor Dov Gabbay, one of the world's leading figures in the field, who gave us the opportunity to work on a variety of cutting-edge problems in the crossing of mathematical logic and computer science, as well as to build up a solid and lasting international academic network.

I was, from the beginning, very impressed by his deep understanding of all aspects of proof-theory, including its connections with practical computational problems arising in several application areas, and by his high international reputation.

I stress that today Ruy de Queiroz is himself regarded by the Computational Logic community as a leading figure in the field. He has authored influential papers in highly prestigious venues (including the *Journal of Symbolic Logic*); he has been co-editor of important books and special issues of top scientific journals (such as *Theoretical Computer Science*, *The Annals of Pure and Applied Logic*, *Information and Computation*); he is the executive editor of the *Logic Journal of the IGPL* (published by Oxford University Press), one of the first electronic journals of high international standing; he is the coordinator of the Interest Group in Pure and applied Logic and one of the main promoters of WOLLIC, a Series of Workshops on Logic, Language, Information and Computation, which has now reached the 14th edition and one of the most important interdisciplinary events in the area of computational logic and its applications (the next two editions, already planned, will be held in Edinburgh and Tokyo).

Considering his solid international standing and his role as one of the few “hubs” in the world-wide scientific network, I was considerably surprised to hear that the Brazilian Research Council is not renewing his grant. If the motivation, as I understand, is the “insufficient” number of journal papers published over the last few years, I wish to suggest that you might reconsider your decision, taking into account that the extensive research work carried out by Dr. de Queiroz cannot be measured only by the journal papers he has published (which are anyway deep contributions on difficult logical problems), but also by all his other contributions — including book-chapters, editorial and organizational work — which make his scientific activity, as a whole, quite remarkable by the standards of our research area, also in terms of international visibility.

Although I fully appreciate the reasons behind the increasing request for productivity in academic work, I firmly believe that this should not, beyond any good intention, become a reason for discouraging the best researchers (such as Dr. de Queiroz) from addressing difficult problems — those which may require years to be solved, or may not be solved at all. For, it’s exactly from the solution of these problems that we may expect the greatest return in terms of collective scientific productivity and technological innovation. If the pursuit of a high short-term productivity may appear to be a reasonable goal on average, in certain areas and for researcher of high scientific value it may become a hindrance to the the pursuit of excellence. Furthermore, I think that Dr. de Queiroz’s role, as a senior researcher, is also that of coordinating and promoting scientific exchange, as well as writing academic papers; a role that he plays very well, and should by all means be taken into great account in the overall evaluation of his scientific activity.

I apologize for taking too much of your time with this long letter, but I do hope that my remarks can be helpful for you in deciding whether to reconsider Dr. de Queiroz’s application.

With my best regards

Marcello D’Agostino  
Full Professor of Logic and  
Philosophy of Science