

NOTEWORTHY

IS SCIENCE POLITICAL?

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Marcia McNutt, the president of the US National Academy of Sciences emphasizes the role of scientists of informing not setting policy in a new [Science letter](#).

For starters, scientists need to better explain the norms and values of science to reinforce the notion—with the public and their elected representatives—that science, at its most basic, is apolitical. Careers of scientists advance when they improve upon, or show the errors in, the work of others, not by simply agreeing with prior work.

This is something [I wrote in the past](#) (and also my inherent problem with the [S4F](#)). Unfortunately the second sentence is not true. I would advice any career oriented scientist to stay away from [PubPeer](#) (although they just received their [first big price](#)).