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## Ukraine: don't relax scientific sanctions against Russia

[Yaroslav Bazaliy](#) , [Olga Garaschuk](#), [Yury Gogotsi](#), [Igor Anisimov](#), [Sergiy Kvit](#) & [Anatoliy Zagorodny](#)

A February open letter signed by eminent academic figures in, or formerly from, Ukraine calls for the isolation of scientists working in the Russian Federation until the war in Ukraine comes to an end (see [go.nature.com/3xmchi2](https://go.nature.com/3xmchi2)). It argues that maintaining the pre-war status quo in communications with scientists working for Russia's totalitarian government amounts to approval of Russian military aggression.

It is often said that science boosts understanding between nations (see, for example, [G. Rees \*et al.\* \*Nature\* \*\*613\*\*, 243; 2023](#)). But for President Vladimir Putin's Russia, science is just another propaganda tool. The state treats internationally known Russian scientists who support the regime as assets, and derives legitimacy from their acceptance by outsiders.

Sanctions against Russian research organizations remain a meaningful anti-war tactic (see also [D. Chumachenko \*Nature\* \*\*603\*\*, 393; 2022](#)). The latest open letter, which readers are invited to sign, discusses the scope and enforcement of such sanctions. Publishers of scientific journals, for example, must recognize that every new article

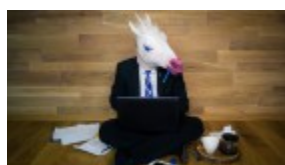
bearing a Russian Federation affiliation indicates that Russia is still an accepted member of the international community.

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