

OCEANIC RESEARCH INSTITUTE LIMITED  
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WITHOUT PREJUDICE

4 July 2019


**Dr Lawrence Madin**   
Deputy Director  
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution




I summarize this letter from de Blonville to WHOI as: "Do what I demand or I will hurt you". That is the textbook definition of blackmail. Decide for yourself. Keep in mind that my ONLY connection to WHOI is that my brother worked there. There is no mechanism, no leverage that WHOI could deploy, even if they wanted to, to constrain my activities or my free speech. So Mr. de Blonville is literally demanding the impossible and threatening damage if his impossible demand is not met.



In order to respond to this letter, I have used "notes" which, to read completely, may require downloading the file and opening in a .pdf reader. Kent Madin



Dear Dr Madin


Re: Damage to reputations - WHOI and Dr Lawrence Madin.

I write on behalf of Oceanic and climate scientists in two countries, plus international advisors and supporters of the Oceanic Research Institute, to bring you disturbing news concerning damage being done to the international reputations of Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and Dr Lawrence P. Madin. 

To put you in the picture, the Oceanic Research Institute (ORI), founded August 2016, is Australia's first independent Oceanic and climate research organisation operating globally, and the world's first such organisation operating from fully sustainable traditional wooden sailing vessels with 100% renewable energy, generated on board, with zero carbon and acoustic emissions. We engage in Discovery Science, carrying leading scientists from around the world into remote regions to investigate the big questions affecting Ocean and climate. Our data is open source, free to all scientists. ORI is an Australian Registered Charity and a Government Approved Research Institute with Tax Deductible Gift Recipient status. The founders have invested well over \$2 million into this Australian research enterprise. Unlike Woods Hole, which kicked off with a \$40 million Rockefeller gift, ORI has taken six years of incredibly difficult work with everything done the hard way.   
  


We ask if you are aware that the reputation and good standing of Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) is being compromised, and its current Deputy Director and Vice President for Research, Dr Lawrence P Madin, is being defamed. Both entities are currently implicated in a campaign of worldwide stalking, defamation and harassment directed at senior academic staff at three universities, in Australia and Spain, an independent CSIRO Approved Research Institute and quite probably many other entities and high level individuals.   


This might sound like fiction, but I assure you it's plain fact. And it's deadly serious. The stalking, defamation and harassment campaigns legally implicate WHOI because the individual behind this sustained campaign cites his allegiance to WHOI, and Dr Madin as his authority to conduct the campaign. In the case of Dr Madin, this is not without foundation as he has already been alerted to the obnoxious and, in Australia, highly illegal activities of the self identified perpetrator. His response, by any legal evaluation, amounted to fully cognisant written approval. Based on the evidence he has provided, he knows what's been going on and is happy to allow it.   


The government-funded institutions under attack include Southern Cross University, NSW, Australia; Catalonia University, Barcelona, Spain; and University of the Sunshine Coast, 

Queensland, Australia. The government-approved research institute is the Oceanic Research Institute, NSW, Australia. The individuals who have been singled out for sustained harassment include Prof Peter Harrison, PhD, founding director of the Marine Ecology Research Centre; Prof Michel Andre, PhD, founding director of the Laboratory of Applied Bioacoustics; Prof Patrick Nunn, PhD, Professor of Geography, University of the Sunshine Coast and formerly Pro Vice Chancellor, Research, University of the South Pacific; and myself, Earle de Blonville, FRGS, director and CEO of the Oceanic Research Institute.

In addition to the individuals mentioned who have been placed under sustained attack, international advisory panel and high level colleagues across the world are also being targeted, and we believe it highly likely that WHOI and Dr Madin are being invoked by this individual to authenticate and add weight to his damaging activities.


We have learned that two of our supporters have already been directly approached in an attempt to defame the ORI. They are His Excellency Peter Thomson, the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy for the Ocean (and former President of the UN General Assembly), and Remi Parmentier, veteran environmental advocate, co-founder of both the Global Ocean Commission and Because The Ocean initiative. Remi is also a member of the Spanish Prime Minister's Advisory Council for Ecological Transition. Both senior figures have been directly approached and directed to a website operated by this individual, created specifically to defame the ORI and its Directors with outrageous lies.


We are concerned that this individual is likely to harass our International Advisors, including Prof Ove Hoegh-Guldberg, recently named as one of the world's 100 most influential people in climate policy; James Alix Michel, former President of the Seychelles who recently received the National Geographic Planetary Leadership Award; and Mr Rich Gilmore, Country Director of the Nature Conservancy.


These attacks have been perpetrated by a lone individual who identifies strongly with WHOI and has invoked them as his referee. This individual, whom forensic psychiatrists describe as a Fixated Loner (a self-righteous individual who believes himself above any laws and constantly attacks high profile strangers), is, unfortunately for WHOI, well known to Police in as many as five countries for his relentless, malicious and obsessive campaigns against total strangers and their families, over periods of several years. One consequence of his illegal activity in Australia is that he cannot travel here, due to being wanted for questioning over making a death threat and serious Cyberstalking offences (which carry a long prison term). In addition to the sustained attacks earlier mentioned, he is also well known to senior academic staff at RMIT University in Melbourne, for a prolonged period of harassment of them, as well as to the Victorian Ombudsman for his endless vexatious litigation. He has cost Australian taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars and no one knows why he does this or what he expects to achieve.

More recently, he has conducted a 20-month long campaign against staff at Southern Cross University, to which ORI is attached, involving up to 200 demanding emails and a personal threat to the Vice Chancellor. The level of widespread anxiety and the disruption caused to senior staff and academics is unprecedented. He is known by everyone at SCU as The Crazy Guy. SCU had to employ a staff member full time just to deal with his ludicrous demands, and he has placed an excessive additional workload on the legal department, complete with huge costs caused to the University. But his relentless and vexatious campaign has also been imposed on NSW Government agencies, including the Information Commissioner and NCAT.


What appears to lie behind this and other attacks, accusations, demands and insults, is a concerted attempt to cause maximum reputational damage to the Oceanic Research Institute. In legal terms this is classic Tortious Interference and is subject to legal remedy. It goes without saying that ORI has no relationship of any kind with this individual, and yet he appears to be making it his life's full time work to cause us incredible damage.


In this whole matter, ORI has suffered hundreds of thousands of dollars in losses, and has had to work hard to overcome the damage done to our reputation. **So why would any sane person want to harm ORI and do it in the names of WHOI and Dr Lawrence Madin?** 

In order to try and stop this activity, ORI's defamation lawyers in Sydney sent this person a formal Cease and Desist demand letter. In response he not only refused point blank to stop, but then published all privileged and confidential legal documents on his defamatory websites, **replete with a wash of childish annotations.** 



**We attach the C&D demand below as it reveals the vast extent of his illegal and immoral stalking and defamatory activities, including against ORI. As you can see from this demand, the offender's name is Kent Madin, and if his claim is true, then he is the brother of Dr Lawrence Madin. We have the evidence that Dr Madin has known about his brother's activities for several years and also that he fully approves of them.** 


Why all this background is important to WHOI and it's sponsors is that given Kent Madin's habitual shotgun approach to harassment, we have no way of knowing just how many individuals and institutions he has harassed, in order to defame the ORI, and how many times he has invoked the names of WHOI and Dr Madin as his referees, implicating them as his supporters.


We know for certain that Kent Madin, in his approaches to our Research Committee scientists, not only cites as his referees WHOI and Dr Lawrence Madin, but also **claims that because his brother, 'Larry', is an oceanographer, he, Kent, therefore knows all about oceanography as well.** 


**This laughable proposition places Kent Madin and Dr Lawrence Madin in an additional difficult position, because Kent claims to have a degree from what was, when he attended, a bankrupt community education outfit that had no academic affiliation and was therefore unable to grant him any kind of degree, as he publicly claims. It is impossible that Dr Madin does not know about Kent's fraud.** 

As Chief Executive Officer for our nationally Registered Charity and government-Approved Research Institute, my legal and fiduciary duty is to protect our scientists, advisors, sponsors, academic and scientific affiliates and collaborators. We have to treat any threats to our organisation and associates very seriously, and this we will do.

Over the last 20 months Kent Madin, **in the view of our defamation lawyers,**  demonstrated a clear and unequivocal intent to damage or destroy the ORI, and to do so using the real or implied endorsement of WHOI and Dr Madin. **He is obviously well aware that by invoking these 'referees', he will gain more traction with unsuspecting audiences**  and a better chance to spread his defamatory message to more people.

In conducting this campaign of defamation and harassment, Kent Madin has not only cost several academic institutions an enormous amount of money, **but now he is attacking the Chairman of our Research Committee, a Nobel prize winner, who as a result seriously fears**  **for his professional position and the potential economic impact on his family.**

**So far, Kent Madin has prevented ORI from undertaking its fundraising campaigns.** That time  is over. We are about to launch our fundraising and we know perfectly well that he will directly contact everyone associated with ORI to defame and undermine us.

**So we will be briefing the print and broadcast media to expect Kent Madin's approaches, including his claimed link to WHOI. This part of ORI's story and it's connection with such a famous entity as WHOI will probably go viral as the media loves a salacious story.** 

And if it does go viral it will only be a couple of days before Woods Hole and Dr Madin will have to face a lot of uncomfortable questions from the media, sponsors and staff.

Therefore, it is in the best interests of Woods Hole and Dr Madin that immediate and radical action is taken to ensure Kent Madin is stopped immediately and held publicly accountable for his actions. Woods Hole should also ensure that Kent Madin apologises to all those he has damaged. To ensure this is done, and not just swept quietly under the carpet, we also are copying this letter to Wood's Hole sponsors, because they absolutely have a right to know what's going on and decide if their own reputations are at risk.

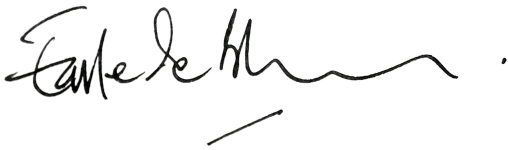
Suffice it to say that considerable self-inflicted damage has already been done to the otherwise good name of the Madin family, and suspicion surrounds WHOI's involvement. The opportunity now is to reverse this state of affairs and restore some sanity and trust.

The tragedy here is that ORI has the greatest respect and admiration for WHOI and its people and yet is party to damaging us. The Ocean needs all of us to help with research, design remediation programs and ultimately offer hope to millions. Our organisations are in the same boat, and equally committed. We at ORI have the greatest respect for Wood's Hole. It is incumbent on WHOI to fix this appalling state of affairs, forthwith.

Please reply by 16:40 pm Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July with your plan of action to fix this. We begin our media briefings on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July.

We reserve all our legal rights and remedies in this matter.

Yours faithfully



Earle de Blonville, FRGS  
CEO

Encl: Cease & Desist Demand

CC:

Michael J Murray, President, Arthur Vining Davis Foundations  
Dr Robert W Conn, Board Chair, Science Philanthropy Alliance  
Ambrose K Monell, President, Vetlesen Foundation  
James H Simons, Chairman, Simons Foundation  
Julia Stasch, President, MacArthur Foundation

David B Scully, Chairman of WHOI Board  
Steven G Hoch, Chairman of WHOI Corporation  
Dr Mark R Abbott, WHOI President & Director  
Jeffrey Fernandez, WHOI Vice President, Operations & CFO  
Anne C Kronenberg, WHOI Treasurer  
Dr Laurence P Madin, Deputy Director