



4 agosto 2014

**Al Professore Roberto Danovaro**  
**Presidente**  
**Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn**  
**Napoli, Italy**

**Al Consiglio di Amministrazione della**  
**Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn**  
**Napoli, Italy**

Ai sensi del comma 8 - articolo 8 dello Statuto della Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn trasmetto un estratto del report del Meeting del Consiglio Scientifico tenutosi a Ischia, presso Villa Dohrn della Stazione Zoologica dal 8 al 9 Luglio u.s..

Tale estratto riguarda la valutazione degli 8 programmi di Ricerca della Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn.

Il Report completo verrà trasmesso a breve.

In fede

**Aldo Fasolo**  
**Presidente**  
**del Consiglio Scientifico**

## Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn

### Scientific Council meeting

July 7-9, 2014

#### ***Report on Research Programs Presentations***

##### *PROGRAM 1 ORIGIN AND EVOLUTION OF MECHANISMS OF DEVELOPMENT IN DEUTEROSTOMES*

It is a very good program, with prominent papers and good researchers in the group. It comprehends a very well organised community in Europe. The question that arises is if they really work together because this programme features almost no publications involving different teams. It apparently seems more an assemblage than a scientific community, but the scientific products are very good and are published in outstanding journals. Not collaborating could run the risks of dispersal of their research activity, accordingly the SC suggests to reduce their perimeter of investigation, and to go more deeply in fewer aspects.

*In summary:* Good positive evaluation, sometimes fragmented, future common goals, well developed, mature techniques that could be transferred to other programs.

##### *PROGRAM 2 CELL BIOLOGY AND PHYSIOLOGY OF REPRODUCTION*

This is a very small group, with some competence and without significant research outputs. The scientific products are published in low profile journals or as book chapters, with negligible citation score, often grossly inflated by abnormal proportion of autocitations. During the presentations the researchers did not convincingly explain the significance of their results and technical approaches.

*In summary:* The program is not competitive in the national and international arena and should be carefully re-considered in the future.

##### *PROGRAM 3 INTEGRATED APPROACH TO THE STUDY OF MARINE BIODIVERSITY*

In principle this can be a coherent program moving in the right direction, but they have too many experimental systems. They could be more efficient if they concentrate in fewer model systems. The publications are quite good but only in specific journals and they don't have common publications, and some publications are not related to the programme. In addition, objective n. 2 should move to Program 5.

*In summary:* There is no obvious integration within a group comprising many researchers and, furthermore, it is unclear who is responsible for the program. Program 3 could have a significant help from the techniques developed in Program 1.

##### *PROGRAM 4 ENVIRONMENTAL VARIABILITY, CLIMATE CHANGE AND HUMAN IMPACTS: ADAPTIVE RESPONSES IN SPECIES, COMMUNITIES AND BENTHIC SYSTEMS*

The group works on the Castello Aragonese highly acid vents, providing a unique opportunity in a Marine Station. The system is made available to other researchers and the group has tight collaboration with non SZN researchers. The scientific products are published in excellent journals (e.g. Nature) and their capacity to publish within the group and with international collaborators is outstanding.

*In summary:* Good positive evaluation, potential future developments. Program 4 could have a significant help from the techniques developed in Program 1.

*PROGRAM 5 MECHANISMS THAT REGULATE BIOLOGICAL PROCESSES AND ECOLOGY OF PLANKTON*

This Program should be integrated by Program 3. In fact, some publications include Dr Marina Montresor who introduces Program 3. The synergies between the two groups are evident in the scientific products presented and should be integrated. It seems to be a well-balanced program, with a very good scientific production: e.g. Adriana Zingone (Objective 3) published, with Victor Smetacek, a paper in Nature. This good integration brings the genetic approaches to oceanography, as happened 20 years ago in ECO-DEVO with genetic approaches in marine biology.

*In summary:* the SC strongly supports the Program, allocate more resources.

*PROGRAM 6 BIOLOGICAL PLASTICITY*

This is a heterogeneous program, with some significant highlights on octopus research. The integration with other Programs is however not so high and some clues on epigenetic regulation are not fully exploited.

*In summary:* The insufficient integration of the scientists makes less competitive the program. The suggestion is to enhance links among octopus to epigenetics, and a cut off the work on isochore theory.

*PROGRAM 7 BIOTECHNOLOGICAL POTENTIAL OF MARINE ORGANISMS*

This Program has much potential for the future, but there's the need to be maintained independent. It should develop a team devoted to Technological Transfer.

*In summary:* develop technologies, develop links with companies.

*PROGRAM 8 TRANSMISSION OF CULTURE AND SCIENCE EDUCATION*

Outreach is one of the Missions of the SZN, and therefore Program 8 should be constantly supported and checked. The SZN will seemingly take great advantage from the planned new spaces for Aquarium and Turtle Point and development of new communication tools, as well as a systematic animator program could meet new audience and general public.

*In summary:* important for future developments and research implementation in the specific sector.

**Concluding,** although the presentations were very good, it is essential that in future the SC can contact each group to have personal exchanges, for e.g. half day or some hours. In addition, with reference to the new organisation of the SCN, for the next SC Meeting that will take place in November, the SC will have to give advices, evaluating the personnel of each structure and its eventual reallocation, as well the funding system.

Finally, the SC strongly advises all researchers to set up their page into Scholar Citations, including the full address of the Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn. It is advised that a researcher with no Scholar citations page should not be considered for future resource allocation.

*Aldo Frazzetta*