**CONFERENCE SPEECH**

**FOR**

**ALEXANDRA LEMIRE**

**REVISED**

Marie Curie said, “When radium was discovered, no one knew that it would prove useful in hospitals. The work was one of pure science. And this is proof that scientific work must not be considered from the point of view of the direct usefulness of it...” in an article presented by the University of California at Berkeley entitled, “Modern Science: What’s Changing,” (**No author cited**) we are reminded that the Curies’ “studies of radiation were carried out without any environmental or safety precautions — and, in fact, their research notes from those years are still **so radioactive** that scholars wishing to study them must sign a risk waiver!” Science, discovery, advancement of knowledge and implementation of theory all rely on the foundations built by those that precede us. Everything in this world is kinetic. Nothing stands still. As engaged, curious citizens of the world, it is imperative to pay attention to the signs as we observe the advances and setbacks that inform our development as a society as we take our place in the pantheon of human and technological development.

Regarding employment trends in the field of science, one aspect we can assert is that the way in which experiments are conducted and the means by which information is being shared has been radically transformed. Thanks to advancements in technology and human connectivity, the most obvious innovations have been within the encouragement and facilitation of teamwork in experimentation and discovery.

The Berkeley article points out that back in the early 1800’s when Gregor Mendel began his research on plant genetics, he worked alone. “A middle aged European monk counting peas in the abbey garden” is how he was described while executing his process; his equipment was simple... practically primitive. Flash forward to modern times, one hundred years later, and we learn that teams of scientists are capable of “searching for new particles like the Higgs boson” analyzing data gathered by a super computer... the most powerful in the world.... that’s **SEVENTEEN MILES LONG** and cost **SEVERAL BILLION DOLLARS**.... believe me, that wasn’t developed or built by one lone monk!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

Global trends afford greater access to data sharing, discovery, implementation, and regulation. We are able to identify issues, solve problems, and develop compliance in greater detail employing more methodical strategies. Thanks to the proliferation of information technology, teams of scientists in any field can focus research and go narrow and deep within the collaborative environment. Work can be done at the micro diverse level shared between diverse teams located remotely around the world. Research and reporting can be mutually interactive and sympathetic to yield greater, more expanded outcomes.

Ultimately, broadened collaborative benefits clearly serve mankind in all fields of science and technology, including biodiversity, as we leverage different cultural and societal perspectives. Thank you.