

## **ICM Round table on *The Use of Metrics in Evaluating Research***

Panellists: László Lovász (Chair), Douglas Arnold, José-Antonio de la Peña, Malcolm MacCallum, Frank Pacard.

The use of metrics for evaluating research is a hotly debated issue. The IMU/ICIAM/IMS report on Citation Statistics<sup>1</sup> highlighted the dangers of uncritical use of impact factors, which play an increasing role in funding, promotions and library purchases. Are impact factors and other such indices good measures of journal quality, and should they be used to evaluate research and individuals? What can be done about unethical practices like impact factor manipulation? Is there a role for metrics in evaluating research? Are there better alternatives?

About the panellists:

*László Lovász* is President of the International Mathematical Union. He is teaching at the Eötvös Loránd University, he was formerly a professor at Yale, and a researcher at Microsoft Research.

*Douglas Arnold* is McKnight Presidential Professor of Mathematics at the University of Minnesota and President of the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM). He was a plenary speaker at the ICM in Beijing in 2002.

*José-Antonio de la Peña* was Director of the Math Institute at the National University of Mexico and President of the Mathematical Union of Latin America and the Caribbean. Currently he is Deputy General Director for Science at the National Council for Science and Technology, Mexico.

*Malcolm MacCallum* is Director of the Heilbronn Institute for Mathematical Research, Bristol. He was formerly a Professor at Queen Mary, University of London and represented Applied Mathematics in the consultation on the forthcoming UK "Research Excellence Framework".

*Frank Pacard* is currently the scientific advisor for mathematics in the French Ministry of Higher Education and Research and Professor at the University Paris-Est Créteil.

<sup>1</sup> The Citation Statistics report can be found at <http://www.mathunion.org/fileadmin/IMU/Report/CitationStatistics.pdf>