



“In Peer Review We Trust”

Global March for Science, April 22, 2017

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Last Saturday, April 22, 2017 was a historic day for me. It marked the first time in my life I have ever taken part in a protest march. Prior to the event, I was more a reluctant observer than a full participant.

The Wellington March for Science, was the among the first (the Wellington march organisers' claim, not mine, along with other New Zealand marches in Auckland, Christchurch, and Dunedin) of more than 400 similar marches worldwide. The

Wellington March of around 500 people was impressive in context and content. It was a non-partisan event. And it is for this reason why I decided to participate although two political parties, the Greens and Labour, sent MPs to assure us scientists they are fully supportive of our efforts. Let's wait and see if they mean what they say.

The Wellington March, however, did not compare in terms of the scale of attendance to other marches in other countries. For example, CNN reported a total of 40,000 scientists and supporters turn out for the Chicago march alone.

The aim of the march was to celebrate and defend science at all levels – from local schools to government agencies. For me, it was a test of faith in ensuring evidence-based, objective facts remain the cornerstone of informing policy-making at all levels. And this is why a usually sedate community of scientists left their labs and offices to take to the streets in a global demonstration of concern last Saturday.

For coverage of the global march, check out the selection of links below:

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2017/04/why-scientists-are-marching-on-earth-day>

<http://www.radionz.co.nz/news/national/329254/nzers-join-science-protests-against-trump>

https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/big-turnout-expected-for-march-for-science-in-dc/2017/04/21/67cf7f90-237f-11e7-bb9d-8cd6118e1409_story.html?utm_term=.8ade4700ac5c

<http://www.sciencemag.org/news/2017/02/european-researchers-spin-sister-marches-science-least-eight-countries>

<http://edition.cnn.com/2017/04/22/health/global-march-for-science/>

<http://edition.cnn.com/2017/04/22/us/gallery/signs-from-the-march-for-science/>