

Author of climate emails to temporarily leave top post

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Climate scientist Phil Jones of the United Kingdom's University of East Anglia will remain on staff, but step down from his lab leadership job, until an independent investigation concludes into [controversial stolen emails there](#).

Unknown hackers penetrated a computer system at the university last month and released 1,037 emails and thousands of documents, stretching from 1996 to 2009, from the university's Climate Research Lab (CRU), sparking an online brawl over climate science.

"What is most important is that CRU continues its world leading research with as little interruption and diversion as possible," Jones said [in a statement](#). "After a good deal of consideration I have decided that the best way to achieve this is by stepping aside from the Director's role during the course of the independent review."

Critics such as climatologist Pat Michaels of the Cato Institute say that emails released by the hackers suggest Jones and colleagues have attempted to suppress studies critical of man-made global warming data.

"There is nothing in the stolen material which indicates that peer-reviewed publications by CRU, and others, on the nature of global warming and related climate change are not of the highest-quality of scientific investigation and interpretation," says UEA's Trevor Davies, in a statement made in response to the criticism.

The university last week announced the independent review, and that 95% of the lab's questioned data was publically available already, with the rest to come pending weather station owner agreement.

By Dan Vergano