Environmental scientist Marc-Antoine Longpré with City University of New York is suggesting in a Perspective piece published in the journal *Science* that lessons can be learned from the unexpected eruption of Cumbre Vieja last fall. In his paper, he notes that the timing, explosive power and effusiveness of the blast caught most vulcanologists off guard.

Cumbre Vieja is a currently active volcano situated on the island of La Palma in the Canary Islands. Its latest eruption began September 19 and is ongoing. In his paper, Longpré suggests that the reason scientists were caught off guard by the blast was because some island systems, such as those in the Canary Islands, behave differently than other volcanoes. He suggests Cumbre Vieja and others in the area "defy global relationships" regarding the period when they are quiet versus when they erupt. Data from monitors on the island suggests that the volcano may have been in the process of priming for an eruption for as long as four years.

Longpré suggests that there are lessons to be learned from the Cumbre Vieja eruption, and that they will likely be centered on recognition of the fact that not all volcanoes provide the same kinds of warning signs—particularly those in the Canary Islands.