

**Journal of
Unsolved Questions**

VOLUME 12

Ten years, still failing.

Kevin Machel – Editor in Chief

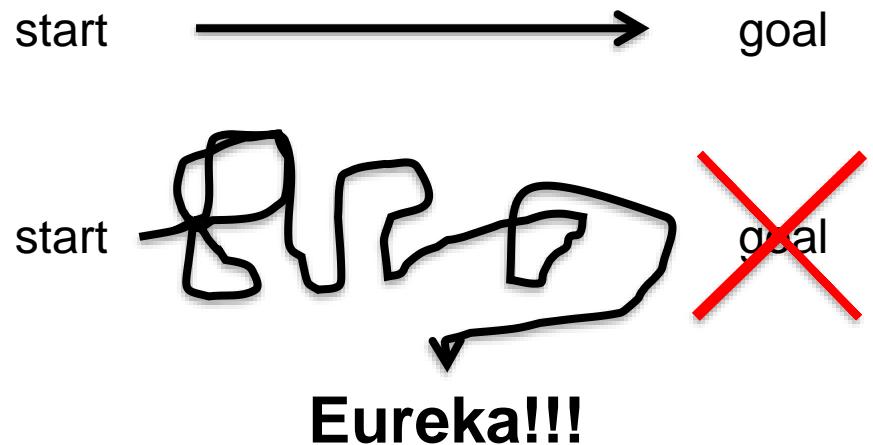
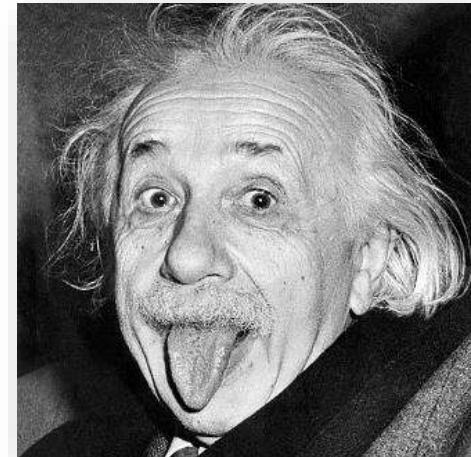


The Problem

TRIAL AND ERROR...

If we knew what it was we were doing, it would not be called research, would it?

– Albert Einstein



TRIAL AND ERROR...

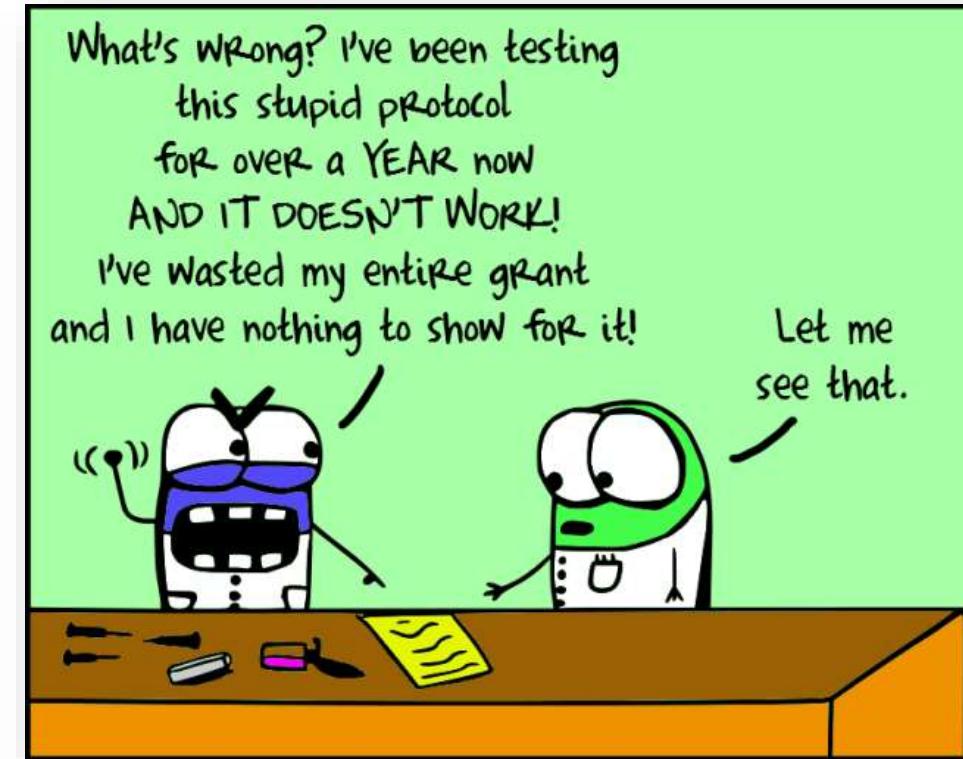
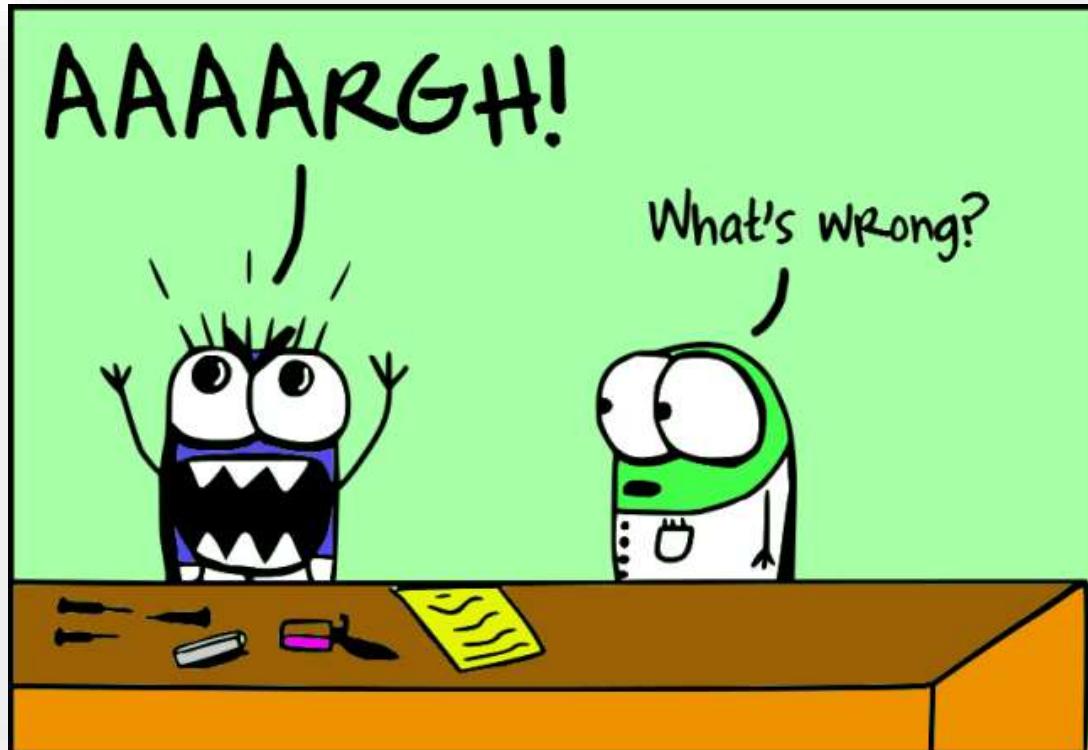
but what to do with negative results?

The nature of science is: First you think of something that could be true. Then you check if this is the case - and in general, it is not.

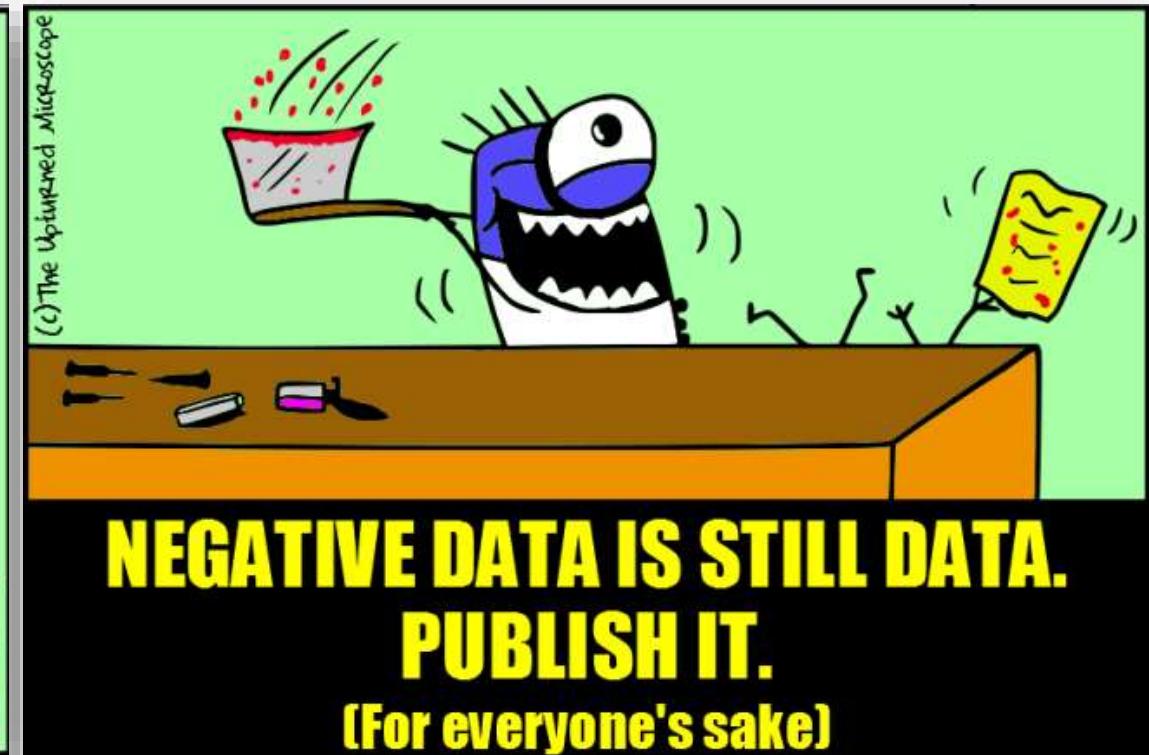
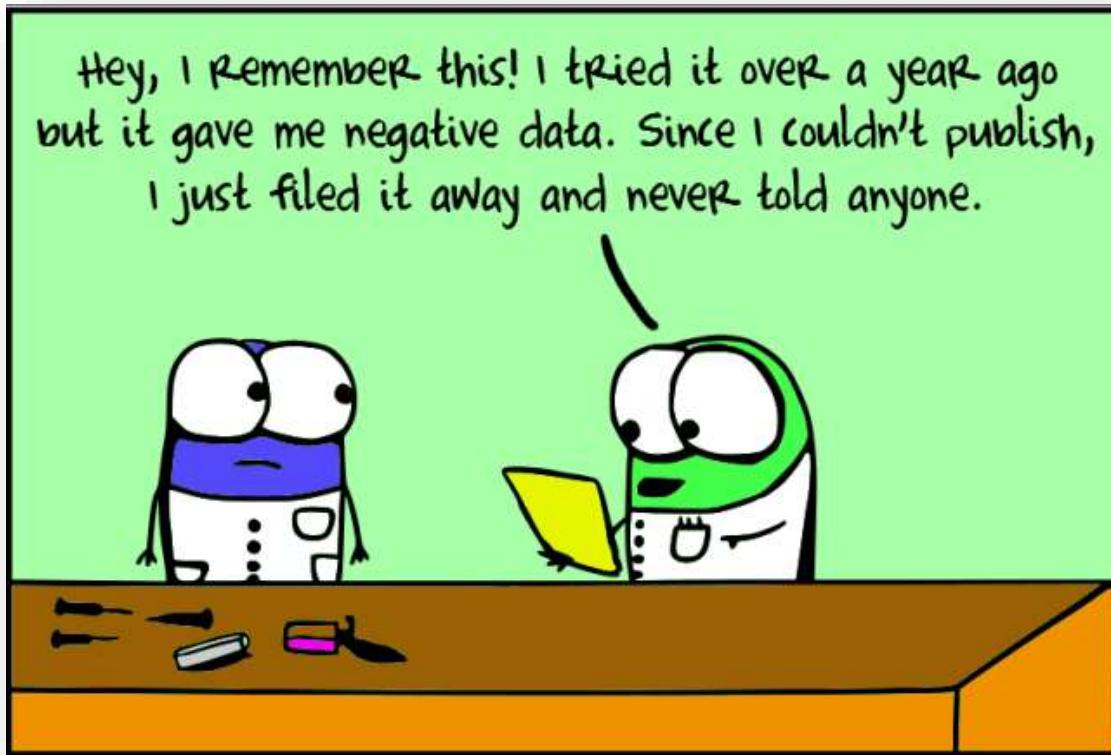
– Bertrand Russell



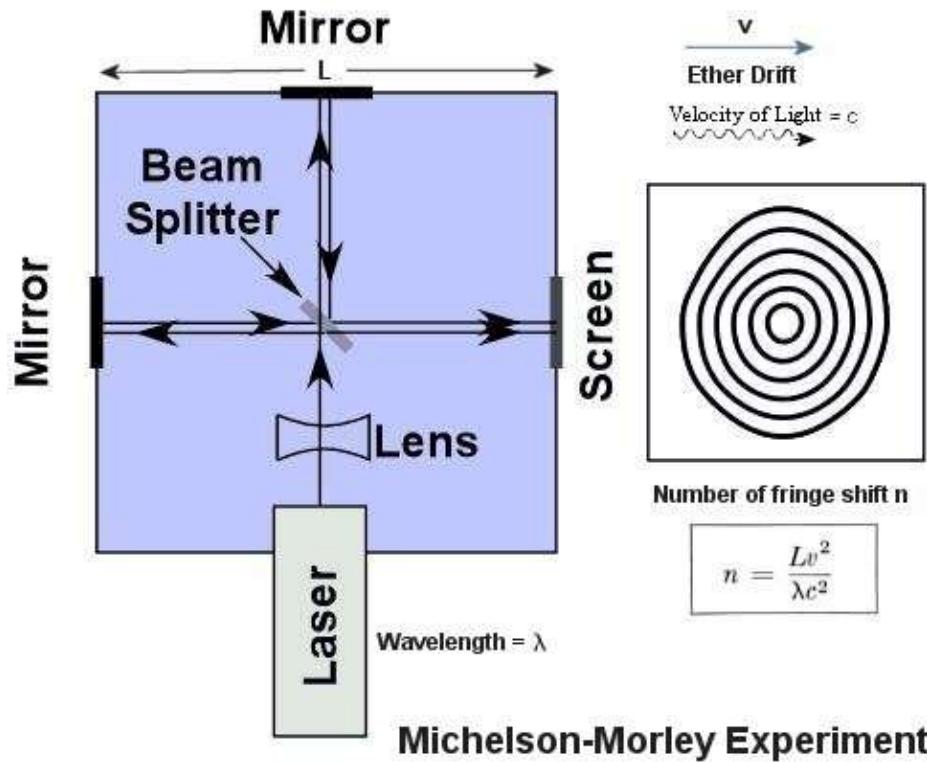
TRIAL AND ERROR...



TRIAL AND ERROR...



TRIAL AND ERROR...



They wanted to confirm the Aether theory.

Back then it was believed that the world floats freely to a so called Aether that makes the transfer of Energy work.

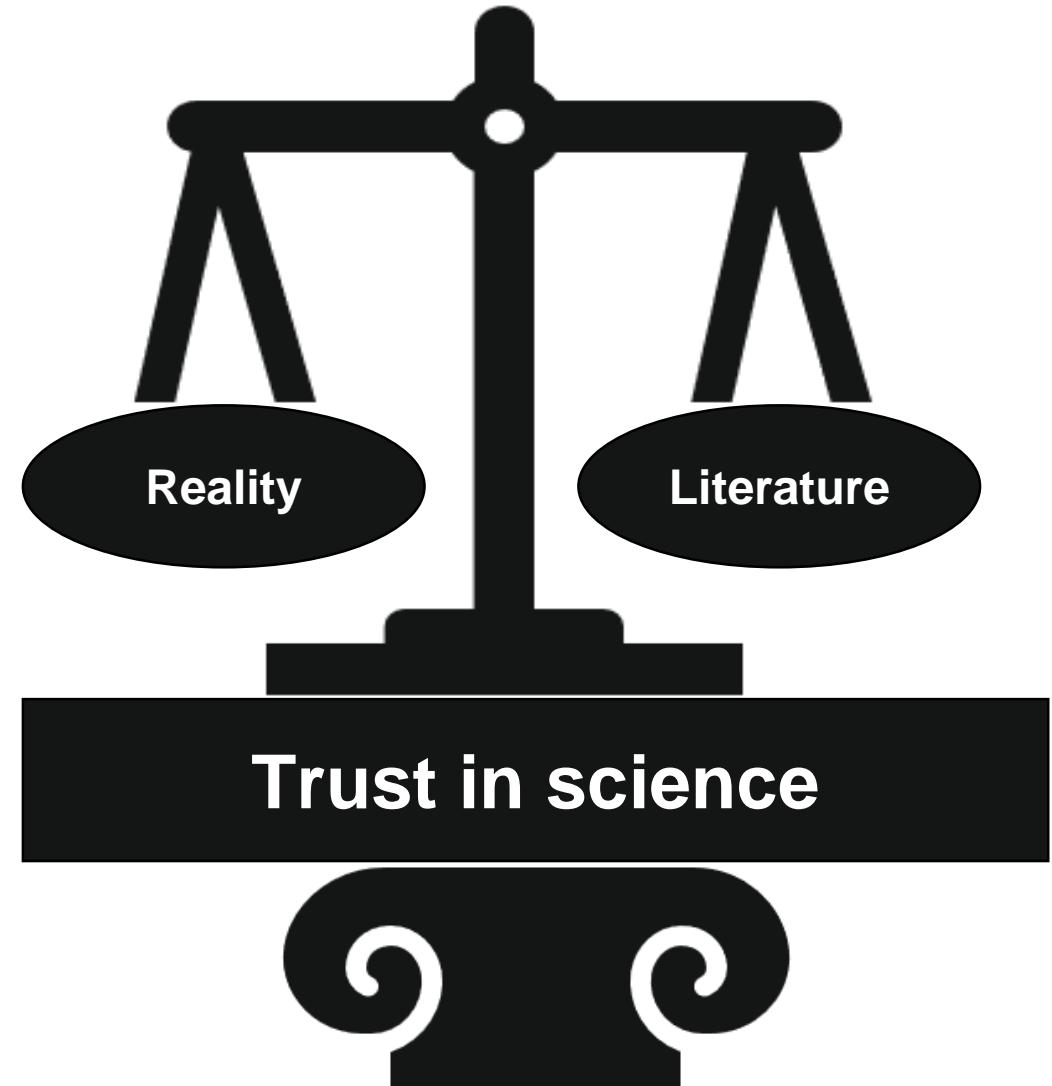
They could not produce any results that confirmed the Aether Theory.

Negative results sometimes lead to a change of paradigm

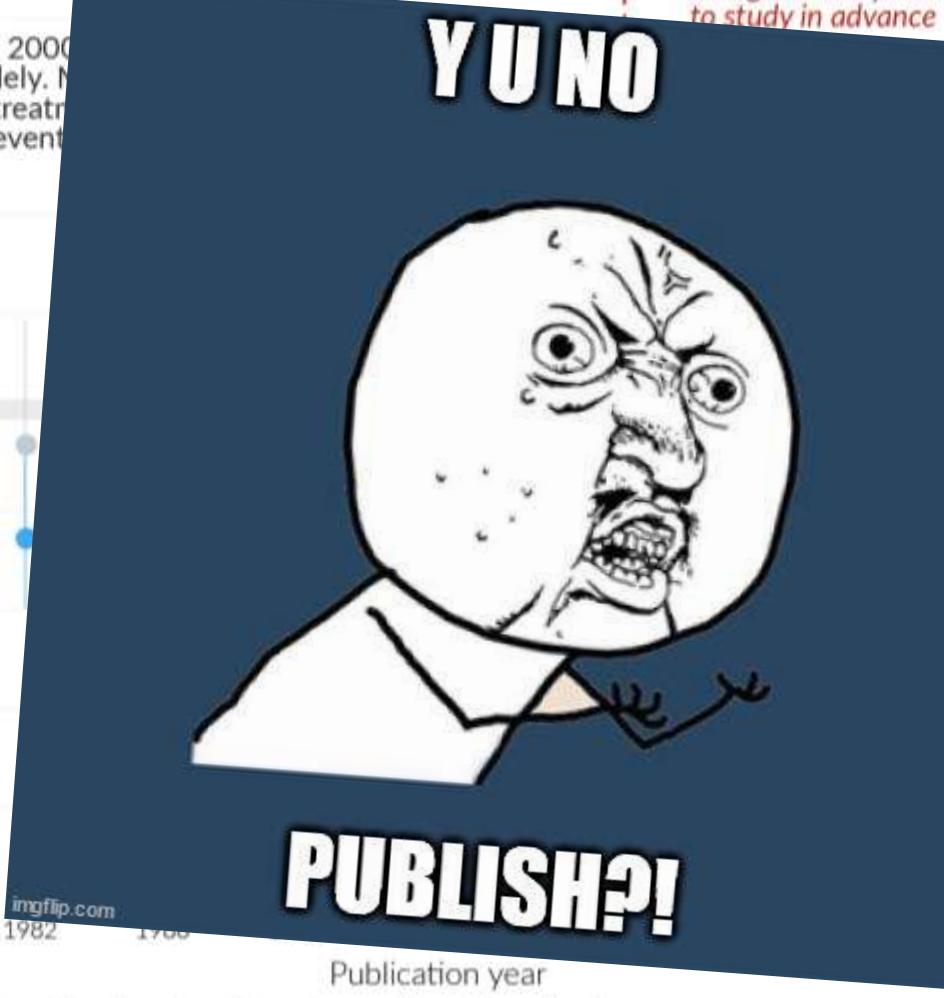
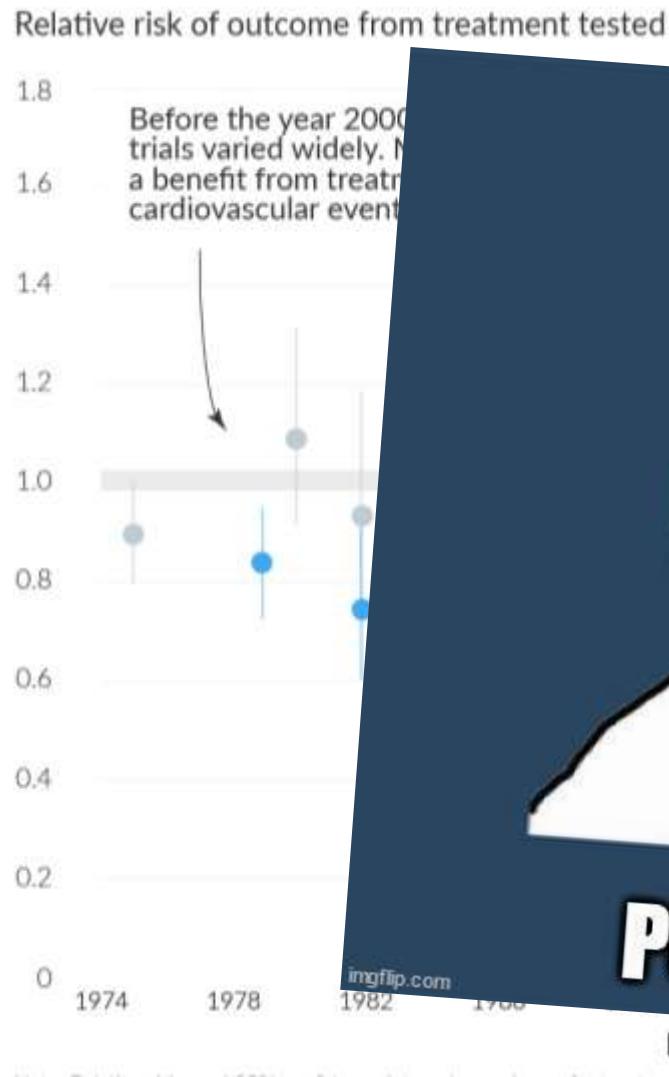
PUBLICATION BIAS

If positive results get published preferably **real** and **published perspective** are distorted.

In medical studies e.g. **this leads to better efficacy** for treatments and harmful effects might even vanish from literature.



PUBLICATION BIAS



From 2000 onwards, sponsored clinical trials for serious diseases were required by the FDA to register the primary outcome they planned to study in advance

Quality

Literature

Just in science

Harm

Null

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WHY NOT PUBLISHED?!



Correspondence | Published: 23 March 2011

Negative results are published

Bob O'Hara

Nature **471**, 448–449 (24 March 2011) | Download Citation



NATURE | EDITORIAL



Go forth and replicate!

To make replication studies more useful, researchers must make more of them, funders must encourage them and journals must publish them.

24 August 2016



EDITORIAL • 21 NOVEMBER 2017 • CORRECTION [15 DECEMBER 2017](#)

Rewarding negative results keeps science on track

Creating a culture of replication takes prizes, grants and magnanimity – as well as publications.



[J Insect Sci. 2016; 16\(1\): 109.](#)

Published online 2016 Oct 23. doi: [10.1093/jisesa/iew092](https://doi.org/10.1093/jisesa/iew092)

PMCID: [PMC5088693](#)

PMID: [27773876](#)

The Importance of Publishing Negative Results

Phyllis G. Weintraub

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WHY NOT PUBLISHED?!

“Publishing negative results is a waste of resources”

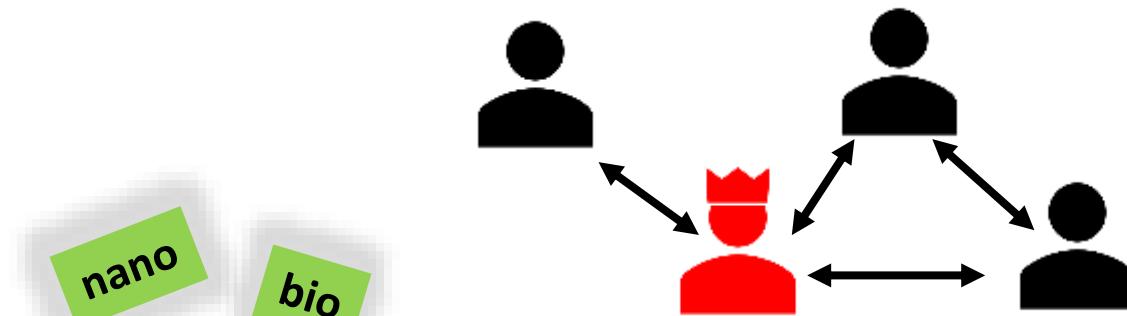
“Should I publish negative results or does this ruin my career in science?”
by Sven Hendrix (*Smart Science Career*)

“Low impact factor because editors hate boring data”

WHY NOT PUBLISHED?!

Subscription based journals

Aim: Many subscribers / citations

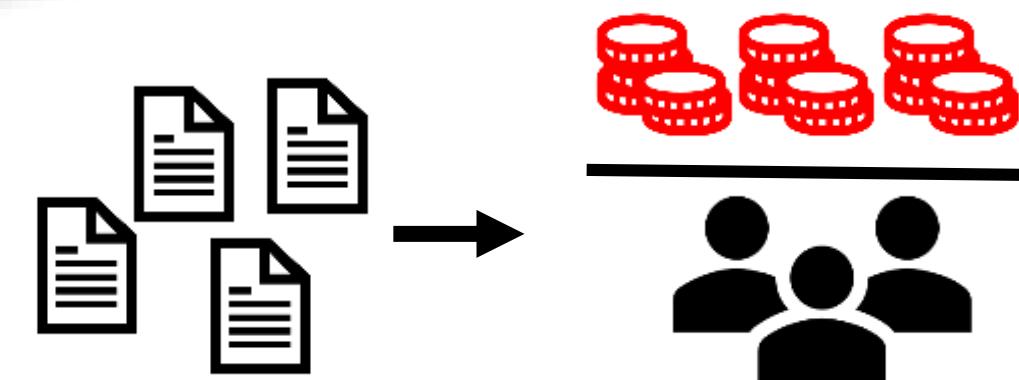


Achieve by: Research for broad audience → “sexy” topics

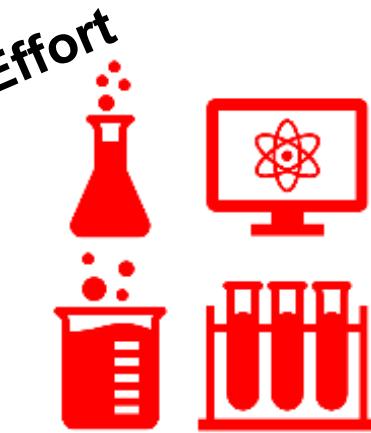
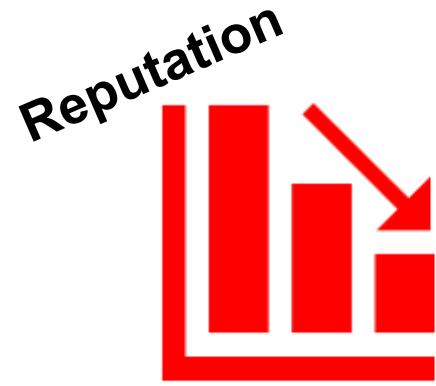
Open Access journals

Aim: Publish many articles

Achieve by: Partially questionable quality control



WHY NOT PUBLISHED?!





A Solution

DIGGING TROUGH JUnQ



Published **2-times a year** (print and online) as full **open access journal**.

Wide range of topics revolving around a main-theme.
Containing articles, essays and interviews.

Editorial board consist of **students, PhDs and Post-Docs**, all volunteers.

HOW IT STARTED...

Founded in 2011 @ MAINZ Graduate School by
Leonie Mück and Thomas Jagau.

The project was **perfectly in tune** with the **Zeitgeist**
in the research community back then.

A lot of **different projects** were started **all over the world** by now.



1. Positively Negative (PLOS One)
2. The Missing Pieces: A Collection of Negative; Null and Inconclusive Results (PLOS One)
3. The All Results Journals
4. ACS Omega (ACS Publications)
5. F1000Research
6. PeerJ
7. Journal of Negative Results in Biomedicine
8. Journal of Negative Results – Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
9. Journal of Articles in Support of the Null Hypothesis
10. Journal of Pharmaceutical Negative results

HOW IT'S GOING...

Total peer-reviewed articles:

13 Publications

Total amount of publications:

More than 120 Articles, Interviews...

Talks about not completely solved Topics.

soon to come: “failure is *not* an option”





The Team





Just in time. any **Unsolved Questions** left?