**Are drug trials corrupt? Those funded by big pharmas are 3 TIMES more likely to give positive results**

* **US-based researchers examined the results of 195 drug trials reported in 2013**
* **They found 58% had at least some degree of financial tie to manufacturing firm**
* **Arrangements included direct payment to the researchers and honorariums**
* **Trial authors could skew their results by cherry picking findings, experts say**

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* [e-mail](mailto:?subject=Read%20this:%20Are%20drug%20trials%20corrupt?%20Those%20funded%20by%20big%20pharmas%20are%203%20TIMES%20more%20likely%20to%20give%20positive%20results&body=Are%20drug%20trials%20corrupt%3F%20Those%20funded%20by%20big%20pharmas%20are%203%20TIMES%20more%20likely%20to%20give%20positive%20results%0A%0AExperts%2C%20from%20the%20University%20of%20California%20San%20Francisco%2C%20found%20in%2058%20per%20cent%20of%20trials%20the%20lead%20investigator%20had%20at%20least%20some%20degree%20of%20financial%20tie%20to%20the%20firm%20that%20made%20the%20drug%20being%20tested.%0A%0Ahttp%3A%2F%2Fwww.dailymail.co.uk%2Fhealth%2Farticle-4132376%2FDrug-trials-funded-big-pharmas-biased.html%3Fito%3Demail_share_article-top%0A%0A%0AMost%20Read%20Articles%3A%0A%0AMum%20has%20two%20sets%20of%20twins%20despite%20using%20CONTRACEPTION%3A%20Emma%20had%20first%20surprise%20pregnancy%20while%20on%20the%20pill%2C%20then%20switched%20to%20an%20implant...%20only%20to%20conceive%20again%20and%20beat%20three-billion-to-one%20odds%C2%A0%0Ahttp%3A%2F%2Fwww.dailymail.co.uk%2Fhealth%2Farticle-4262100%2FMother-two-sets-twins-birth-control.html%3Fito%3Demail_share_article-top_most-read-articles%0A%0AA%20yawning%20gap%21%20Mums%20lose%20more%20sleep%20than%20dads%3A%20Chance%20of%20regularly%20not%20getting%20enough%20shuteye%20goes%20up%20by%2050%25%20for%20every%20child%20a%20woman%20has%0Ahttp%3A%2F%2Fwww.dailymail.co.uk%2Fhealth%2Farticle-4262502%2FA-yawning-gap-Mums-lose-sleep-dads.html%3Fito%3Demail_share_article-top_most-read-articles%0A%0AMadeleine%20McCann%27s%20father%20warns%20thousands%20of%20heart%20patients%20are%20undergoing%20needless%20surgery%2C%20which%20is%20costing%20the%20NHS%20%C2%A360m%20a%20year%2C%20due%20to%20an%20inaccurate%20test%0Ahttp%3A%2F%2Fwww.dailymail.co.uk%2Fhealth%2Farticle-4263480%2FInaccurate-heart-test-costing-NHS-says-Gerry-McCann.html%3Fito%3Demail_share_article-top_most-read-articles%0A%0A)

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Drug trials funded by the pharmaceutical industry are three times more likely to give positive results, a major study has found.

Experts warned of potential bias among researchers with financial ties to drugs companies.

The researchers, whose work was published last night in the British Medical Journal, examined the results of 195 drug trials reported in 2013.

The authors, led by experts from the University of California San Francisco, found in 58 per cent of trials the lead investigator had at least some degree of financial tie to the firm that made the drug being tested.

Arrangements included direct payment to the researchers, the payment of travel expenses, honorariums, payment for advisory work or stock ownership.

Where there was such a connection, the trials were 3.4 times more likely to have positive results, the researchers found.

The authors said trial investigators could easily skew their results, by cherry picking their findings, selecting outcome reporting, using inappropriate analysis techniques, or simply not reporting negative results.

'Financial ties of principal investigators were independently associated with positive clinical trial results,' they wrote.

'These findings may be suggestive of bias in the evidence base.'

They added: 'Given the importance of industry and academic collaboration in advancing the development of new treatments, more thought needs to be given to the roles that investigators, policy makers, and journal editors can play in ensuring the credibility of the evidence base.'

In a separate editorial, also published in the BMJ, Andreas Lundh from the University of Southern Denmark and Professor Lisa Bero from the University of Sydney said transparency is vital.

They said trial authors should only participate in industry-funded trials if data is made publicly available - and called for journals to ban research by authors who are unwilling to share their full data.

The exact role sponsors play in the research must also be transparent, they said.

'Trials with industry funding or authors with financial ties should be interpreted with caution until all relevant information is fully disclosed and easily accessible,' they wrote.

British drugs companies last night insisted they do not impose any undue influence on independent research.

Dr Jacintha Sivarajah, head of medical affairs at the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry, said: 'The UK clinical trials environment works differently than in the US.

'In the UK, funding to run clinical studies is made available to organisations including NHS Trusts and Universities – rather than individuals.'

She added: 'There should be no undue influence from any industry, pharmaceutical or otherwise, in the clinical and financial decisions of a NHS institution.

'Calling for peer-reviewed studies that have benefited from industry funding, or where authors have financial ties to the pharmaceutical industry, to be "interpreted with caution" fundamentally undermines the positive collaboration which has allowed medical research to flourish in this country.

'We are proud of the partnerships our members take part in to develop innovative new treatments for patients, which include new medicines for a whole range of diseases.'

Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-4132376/Drug-trials-funded-big-pharmas-biased.html#ixzz4ZsxpgiXW>   
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