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Science has lost its way, at a big cost to humanity

Researchers are rewarded for splashy findings, not for double-checking accuracy. So many scientists looking for cures to diseases have been building on ideas that aren't even true.

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EDITORIAL

Reproducibility

Marcia McNutt

» Marcia McNutt is Editor-in-Chief of *Science*.

Science advances on a foundation of trusted data. But the reproducibility approach that scientists use to gain confidence in their findings was shaken by reports that a troubling number of results were not reproducible. Because confidence in results is essential to the scientific community, we are announcing new initiatives to improve the reproducibility of *Science*. For preclinical studies (one of the target areas for the recommendations of the U.S. National Institute of Medicine), we are increasing transparency.* Authors will indicate how they handled outliers, whether they ensured a sufficient signal-to-noise ratio, whether they followed the experimental guidelines.

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NATURE | EDITORIAL

Announcement: Reducing our irreproducibility

24 April 2013

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Over the past year, *Nature* has published a string of articles that highlight the reliability and reproducibility of published research (collected and freely available).

TheScientist

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NIH Tackles Irreproducibility

The federal agency speaks out about how to improve the quality of scientific research.

By Jef Akst | January 28, 2014

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Must try harder

Nature 483, 509 (29 March 2012) | doi:10.1038/483509a
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Too many sloppy mistakes are creeping into scientific papers. Lab heads must look more rigorously at the data — and at themselves.