



Research In the News

Questions
About
the Article ?

WHAT'S BEHIND BIG SCIENCE FRAUDS?

This article highlights the troubling reality that many articles in peer-reviewed journals, including highly ranked journals, are retracted because of scientific misconduct by the authors. In fact, the article states, “Every day, on average, a scientific paper is retracted” because of misconduct ranging from plagiarism to fabrication of results. The article blames science for inadequate peer review and journalists who report scientific findings for not doing their own critical analysis of a study.

1. The article finds top-tier journals are just as (if not more) likely to retract articles compared to lower-tiered journals. Beyond peer review, what measures should be taken to reduce this misconduct?
2. If research is funded by a federal agency, there is an expectation that the data will be made publicly available if it does not compromise the confidentiality of research participants. Should all scientists be compelled to turn over their data for replication? Should journals put all papers through a plagiarism checker, similar to what most universities now do for student papers?