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Top scientists in the United States regularly engage in scientific misconduct that threatens the integrity of science

"Our findings reveal a range of questionable practices that are striking in their breadth and prevalence. U.S. scientists engage in a range of behaviors extending far beyond fabrication, falsification or plagiarism that can damage the integrity of science."

Martinson BC, Anderson MS, de Vries R. **Scientists behaving badly.** *Nature* 2005 Jun 9; 435: 737-38.

- Researchers surveyed 3,247 early- and mid-career U.S. scientists funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and asked them to anonymously report their own scientific misbehavior during the previous three years.
- Overall, 33% of scientists funded by the NIH admitted that they engaged in questionable scientific behavior during the previous 3 years.
- Nearly 16% of NIH-funded scientists changed the design, methodology or results of a study due to pressure from a funding source; 15% dropped data points from analyses; 14% used inadequate or inappropriate research designs.
- Nearly 13% of NIH-funded scientists disregarded others' use of flawed data or questionable interpretation of data; 6% failed to present data that contradicted one's own previous research.
- Scientific misbehavior tended to increase as scientists gained in age and experience.
- Findings in this paper suggest that questionable scientific behavior that occurs on a regular basis may pose a greater threat to the integrity of scientific research than high-profile misconduct such as fraud.
- Estimates of scientific misbehavior found in this paper may be conservative.

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