**PHILOSOPHY** 

## POLL: ARE MOST PUBLISHED RESEARCH FINDINGS WRONG?

9.02.2007

â€"Day 5 of Just Science Weekâ€"

<u>John loannides</u> has published a rather influential paper (that will not so often be cited as read): "Why Most Published Research Findings Are False". In principle his arguments are (numbering by me):

- 1. a research finding is less likely to be true when the studies conducted in a field are smaller
- 2. when effect sizes are smaller
- 3. when there is a greater number and lesser preselection of tested relationships
- 4. where there is greater flexibility in designs, definitions, outcomes, and analytical modes
- 5. when there is greater financial and other interest and prejudice
- 6. and when more teams are involved in a scientific field in chase of statistical significance

According to good scientific practice, this could be tested – the only problem is to recognize if the result of a single study is wrong. To be continued in 20 years...

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