

GENETICS, PHILOSOPHY

# TO BE HONEST

12.04.2008 1 COMMENT

Bruce Alberts, the new editor-in-chief of Science magazine, has in his [March, 21 editorial](#) a nice comment that I would like to highlight here

Scientists share a common way of reaching conclusions that is based not only on the evidence and logic, but also requires honesty, creativity, and openness to new ideas.

Struggling in an area where no (or only seldom) conclusions are being reached, I agree with Alberts that there are massive problems with an insufficient education. Evidence and logic need to be taught in classes of science philosophy – the theoretical aspect – and need to be trained in literature seminars – the practical experience.

Failure to reach conclusions, however, is often caused by lacking honesty. This is not a story about faking data, but about putting the focus on impact, publishable units, dropping outliers and downsizing unexpected outcomes. To be honest, much science is not honest.

## Addendum

I forgot a reference to the [Nylenna-Simonsen Misconduct Diagram](#). The SZ today reports an American saying “He doesn’t suffer fools gladly” which I like very much.

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## NACHTRAG

Bayrak

26.04.2008 AT 20:04

do you know any information about this subject in other languages?

COMMENTS ARE CLOSED.

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