PHILOSOPHY

PROST NEUJAHR

3.01.2020

A personal take on science and society

World view

A toast to the error detectors

By Simine Vazire

Let 2020 be the year in which we value those who ensure that science is self-correcting.

ast month, I got a private Twitter message from a postdoc bruised by the clash between science as it is and how it should be. He had published commentary in which he pointed out errors in a famous researcher's paper. The critique was accurate, important and measured — a service to his field. But it

Scientific criticism must not be conflated with bullying."

knowledge, to check everything thrice or more, to discard false hypotheses and so to move ever closer to truth. Thus, when you find an error, you trust that it's okay to point it out. And then you find yourself accused of being a destructive, sanctimonious second-stringer — all for applying the 'scientific values' that you'd been taught.

Yes, error detectors can make research less comfortable — but that discomfort is healthy. We should feel responsible for minimizing errors in our work, and worried that we might have missed some.

Ist es nicht tragisch, wenn das nicht mehr selbstverständlich ist?

Irgendwie sieht Pubmed mit dem Pubpeer Plugin doch viel intelligenter aus.

Fo	ormat: Summary + Sort by: Most Recent + Per page: 20 +	Send to →	
Search results			
Ite	Items: 8		
	T-cell phenotypes are associated with serum IgE levels in Amish and Hutterite children. Hrusch CL, Stein MM, Gozdz J, Holbreich M, von Mutius E, Vercelli D, Ober C, Sperling A J Allergy Clin Immunol. 2019 Nov;144(5):1391-1401.e10. doi: 10.1016/j.jaci.2019.07.034. Epub 2019 Aug I PMID: 31401285 Free Article Similar articles		
	Author Correction: Farm living: effects on childhood asthma and allergy. von Mutius E, Vercelli D. Nat Rev Immunol. 2019 Sep;19(9):594. doi: 10.1038/s41577-019-0199-3. PMID: 31316188 Similar articles		
	Immune development and environment: lessons from Amish and Hutterite children. Ober C, Sperling AI, von Muttus E, Vercelli D. Curr Opin Immunol. 2017 Oct;48:51-60. doi: 10.1016/j.coi.2017.08.003. Epub 2017 Aug 29. Review. PMID: 28843541 Free PMC Article Similar articles		
	Innate Immunity and Asthma Risk in Amish and Hutterite Farm Children. Stein MM, Hrusch CL, Gozdz J, Igartua C, Pivniouk V, Murray SE, Ledford JG, Marques Dc M, Anderson RL, Metwali N, Neilson JW, Maier RM, Gilbert JA, Holbreich M, Thorne PS, M von Mutius E, Vercelli D, Ober C, Sperling AI. N Engl J Med. 2016 Aug 4;375(5):411-421. doi: 10.1056/NEJMoa1508749. PMID: 27518660 Free PMC Article		
	2 comments on PubPeer (by: Matthias Wjst PMC: Jonathan Eisen)		
	Similar articles		
	Amish and Hutterite Environmental Farm Products Have Opposite Effects on Experiment of Asthma. Gozdz J, Holbreich M, Metwali N, Thorne PS, Sperling AI, Martinez FD, Ober C, von Mutiu Vercelli D. Ann Am Thorac Soc. 2016 Mar;13 Suppl 1:S99. doi: 10.1513/AnnalsATS.201509-581MG. No abstract avail PMID: 27027969 Free PMC Article Similar articles	s E,	
CC	CC-BY-NC Science Surf accessed 08.12.2025		