

NOTEWORTHY

THE COST OF SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT

26.06.2024

Chris Said had an [interesting blog post](#) about the cost of scientific misconduct which includes 4 studies.

Alleged research misconduct	Citations	Hypothetical delay in an effective treatment caused by misconduct	Potential QALYs lost	Outcome
Sylvain Lesné (Alzheimer's)	2,300 ¹	1 year	36 Million	Lesné still at UMN
Berislav Zlokovic (Alzheimer's)	11,500 ²	0.5 years	18 Million	Ongoing investigation
Harvard's Dana-Farber Cancer Institute (Cancer)	1,400 ³	1 year	15 Million	Ongoing investigation
Carlo Croce (Cancer)	3,374 ⁴	0.5 years	8 Million	Croce still at OSU

Table 1. Examples of alleged research misconduct and the hypothetical delay they may have caused to the development of effective treatments. Citation counts are outlined in [this spreadsheet](#) and QALY calculations based on [this notebook](#).
Disclaimer: Views expressed are my own.

¹Citations of the [Nature paper](#), not including the [19 other papers](#) suspected to contain doctored images.
²Citations of [35 papers](#) where whistleblowers have raised concerns.
³Citations of the 4 papers publicly listed as retracted so far.
⁴Citations of [15 retracted papers](#).

It would be a nice thesis if this could be done on a larger scale...