



Should Research Misconduct Be Criminalized?

Description

Cardiologist Don Poldermans, a previously unknown figure, has come under scrutiny from experts for his role in potential deaths linked to his research misconduct. Poldermans, a prominent researcher at Erasmus Medical Center in the Netherlands, conducted studies on cardiac surgery practices, with one key study recommending the use of beta blockers before certain heart surgeries. However, it was later discovered that much of Poldermans's data was fabricated. This revelation led to a reevaluation of beta blocker use, with a subsequent meta-analysis showing that using beta blockers increased the likelihood of death after heart surgery. Estimates suggest that following Poldermans's flawed guidelines may have resulted in hundreds of thousands of unnecessary deaths.

The issue of whether research fraud should be a criminal offense is a contentious topic. While some argue that clear cases of intentional data falsification should be prosecuted, others believe that such actions could hinder scientific progress. Instances of misconduct, such as Poldermans's case, highlight the need for accountability in the scientific community. Efforts to address fraud have been limited, with proposals to criminalize misconduct being considered. However, the effectiveness of legal consequences in preventing research fraud remains uncertain. Ultimately, more robust measures to address and prevent scientific misconduct may be necessary to safeguard the integrity of research and protect public welfare.

Vocabulary List:

1. **Scrutiny** /'skruː.tɪ.ni/ (noun): Critical observation or examination.
2. **Research** /rɪ'sɜːrtʃ/ (noun): The systematic investigation into and study of materials and sources to establish facts and reach new conclusions.
3. **Misconduct** /ˌmɪs'kɒn.dʌkt/ (noun): Unacceptable or improper behavior especially by a professional.
4. **Fabricated** /'fæb.rɪ.keɪ.tɪd/ (verb): Invented or concocted typically with deceitful intent.
5. **Accountability** /əˌkaʊntə'bɪləti/ (noun): The obligation of an individual or organization to account for its activities accept responsibility and disclose results in a transparent manner.
6. **Integrity** /ɪn'tɛɡrɪti/ (noun): The quality of being honest and having strong moral principles.

Comprehension Questions



Multiple Choice

1. Who is Don Poldermans?

- Option: A cardiologist at Erasmus Medical Center
- Option: A physicist conducting research on black holes
- Option: A politician advocating for healthcare reform
- Option: A musician specializing in heart-themed songs

2. What was one of Don Poldermans's key studies focused on?

- Option: Cancer treatment methods
- Option: Cardiac surgery practices
- Option: Space exploration technologies
- Option: Climate change impact on health

3. What was the impact of using beta blockers according to the subsequent meta-analysis?

- Option: Reduced the likelihood of death after heart surgery
- Option: No effect on the outcome of heart surgeries
- Option: Increased the likelihood of death after heart surgery
- Option: Improved recovery time after heart surgery

4. Estimates suggest that following Poldermans's guidelines may have resulted in how many unnecessary deaths?

- Option: Thousands
- Option: Tens of thousands
- Option: Hundreds of thousands
- Option: Millions

5. What is a contentious topic related to research fraud?

- Option: Impact of technology on healthcare
- Option: Role of ethics in scientific experiments
- Option: Effectiveness of alternative medicine
- Option: Should research fraud be a criminal offense

6. What do some argue about the prosecution of intentional data falsification cases?

- Option: It could hinder scientific progress
- Option: It has no impact on research integrity
- Option: It is necessary for scientific advancement
- Option: It will deter future misconduct



Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. A cardiologist at Erasmus Medical Center 2. Cardiac surgery practices 3. Increased the likelihood of death after heart surgery 4. Hundreds of thousands 5. Should research fraud be a criminal offense 6. It could hinder scientific progress

Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. What is used to describe the rapidly increasing number of COVID-19 cases?
Option: Easing
Option: Fluctuating
Option: Soaring
Option: Stagnant
2. Which adverb emphasizes the need for immediate action?
Option: Casually
Option: Reluctantly
Option: Urgently
Option: Diligently
3. What term refers to the critical nature or seriousness of situation?
Option: Trivial
Option: Severity
Option: Mildness
Option: Insignificant
4. What word is used when medication is officially recommended by a doctor?
Option: Optional
Option: Customized
Option: Prescribed
Option: Suggested
5. What term relates to the growth and development of the brain and nervous system?
Option: Muscular
Option: Neurodevelopmental
Option: Respiratory
Option: Digestive



6. What is the term for the careful examination or inspection?

- Option: Neglect
- Option: Scrutiny
- Option: Approval
- Option: Superficiality

7. Which process involves providing guidance or support to someone in need?

- Option: Judging
- Option: Compromising
- Option: Counselling
- Option: Accusing

8. What term describes inappropriate behavior or wrongdoing?

- Option: Pristine
- Option: Misconduct
- Option: Ethical
- Option: Compliant

9. What is the term for a thorough examination and repair or renovation?

- Option: Neglect
- Option: Overhaul
- Option: Patchwork
- Option: Minimal

10. What term refers to the frequency of occurrence of something?

- Option: Relevance
- Option: Frequency
- Option: Incidence
- Option: Negligence

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

11. The company was struggling due to a huge _____ of orders that needed to be processed.

12. The new medicine aims to _____ pain and reduce inflammation.

13. The community was _____ by the natural disaster with homes destroyed and lives lost.



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14. The stadium has a seating _____ of 50,000 spectators.
15. Lack of funding has been a major _____ to the project's progress.
16. The new software system improved the company's overall _____ and productivity.
17. Family planning includes methods of birth control and _____ to prevent unwanted pregnancies.
18. The errors were not intentional but were due to several _____ in the quality control process.
19. Scientists are studying the relationship between smoking and lung cancer to determine if there is a direct _____.
20. Leaders must take _____ for their actions and decisions.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)



21. The play depicted a story of love and loss that moved the audience to tears.
22. The campaign aimed to raise about the importance of environmental conservation.
23. The project's failure was attributed to several in the planning phase.
24. The university is known for its groundbreaking in the field of robotics.
25. The evidence presented in court was proven to be leading to a mistrial.
26. The company prides itself on its commitment to honesty and in all its dealings.
27. The theater has a seating of 500 making it suitable for large productions.
28. The patient needs to be seen by a doctor due to the severity of the symptoms.
29. Effective time management includes tasks based on their importance and deadlines.
30. The of flu cases usually rises during the winter months.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Soaring 2. Urgently 3. Severity 4. Prescribed 5. Neurodevelopmental 6. Scrutiny 7. Counselling 8. Misconduct 9. Overhaul 10. Incidence

Gap-Fill: 11. Backlog 12. Alleviate 13. Devastated 14. Capacity 15. Impediment 16. Efficiency 17. Contraception 18. Oversights 19. Causality 20. Accountability

Matching sentence: 1. Tragic 2. Awareness 3. Oversights 4. Research 5. Fabricated 6. Integrity 7. Capacity 8. Urgently 9. Prioritization 10. Incidence

CATEGORY

1. Health - LEVEL4

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