

Restoring the Public Trust in Physician-Scientists

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Recently Jain, *et al.* [1] addressed one of the fundamental problems medical research has been facing for decades – the loss of physician-scientists, who are capable of translating basic research into clinical medicine.

It is clear that the general public trusts physician-scientists who are independently working on behalf of patients, without undue influence by Big Pharma or Big Food corporations [2-4]. Once that line is crossed, the trust can be lost [2-4]. It is critical that we restore the public trust and encourage young people to become physician-scientists.

To restore the public trust and to maintain our independence from corporate influences, it is important that we demonstrate a willingness to transparently discuss our data and prove its validity [5] and we must teach our young physician-scientists to do the same. Only by doing so, will we be able to openly and honestly discuss research and treatment options with our patients and restore their trust in us; trust which is the foundation of both the physician-scientist and the patient-physician relationship.

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