
Contents

Preface	ix
Acknowledgments	xi
Introduction	xv
Chapter 1. The Evolution of Techniques	1
1.1. Hormone assays	1
1.2. Techniques for the identification of steroid hormone action sites in the brain	3
1.3. Molecular biology and sequencing techniques	4
1.4. Controlled modification of gene expression	7
1.5. Techniques for temporarily modifying the activity of neurons	9
1.6. The rise of the computer and the personal computer	11
1.7. Appearance and development of the Internet	18
Chapter 2. The Profound Modification of Research Conditions	23
2.1. The evolution of research funding	24
2.2. The current funding situation: multiple sources of grants that are difficult to control	27
2.3. Ever-increasing constraints	29
2.3.1. Administrative tasks	29
2.3.2. Risk management	30
2.3.3. Animal welfare	33

Chapter 3. The Computer and its Consequences in Terms of Work	39
3.1. Changing the flow of scientific information.	39
3.2. Scientific information management in laboratories	43
3.3. Data processing and preparation of scientific publications	46
Chapter 4. The Development of Publishing Giants and Open Access	51
4.1. The evolution of publishing houses.	51
4.2. Open access: advantages and disadvantages	53
4.3. Unexpected consequence of open access: predatory journals	54
4.4. Reactions	58
Chapter 5. The Invention of Journal Impact Factors	63
5.1. The development of bibliometrics	63
5.2. Disadvantages and limitations.	65
5.3. Use for the evaluation of researchers.	68
Chapter 6. The Race to Publish and the Inadequate Methods of Evaluating Researchers	73
6.1. Increasingly abundant publications.	73
6.2. Evaluation of researchers and grant applications.	76
Chapter 7. The Consequences: An Overall Deterioration of Research Quality	81
7.1. The “bad”, not very rigorous, science	81
7.1.1. Cognitive biases.	82
7.1.2. The absence of randomization	83
7.1.3. The use of poorly validated techniques	85
7.1.4. The low power of the studies	86
7.1.5. Misuse of statistics and pseudoreplication	87
7.1.6. Probability hacking (P-hacking)	89
7.1.7. Inadequate presentation of results	91
7.2. Scientific fraud.	95
7.2.1. Data selection	95
7.2.2. Partial or total data fabrication	96
7.2.3. Plagiarism	97

Chapter 8. The Scientific Community's Fight Against these Aberrations	101
8.1. Peer review	101
8.2. Post-publication criticism by the entire scientific community	103
8.3. Withdrawal of erroneous or fraudulent items	104
Chapter 9. Essential Modifications	109
9.1. The publication process and peer review	110
9.2. Pre-registration of studies	112
9.3. The reward system.	114
Chapter 10. The Loss of Confidence in Science and the Return of the Irrational	117
10.1. A disaffection for science.	118
10.2. The development of irrational beliefs.	120
10.2.1. Creationism and the denial of evolution.	120
10.2.2. Platism and the flat Earth theory	121
10.2.3. The rejection of Western medicine based on evidence	122
10.3. Social networks, fake news, post-truth and alternative truths.	124
Chapter 11. The Solution(s)	129
11.1. Popularizing research results by researchers themselves	129
11.2. Develop critical thinking skills	130
11.3. Expanding an understanding of basic statistics to the general public	131
11.4. Controlling misinformation using social networks	134
Conclusion	137
References	141
Index	151