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Classified as

Controversial

Review / Commentary

Interesting Hypothesis

Good for Teaching

A short piece, an outstanding contribution that perfectly summarizes where biomedical research is going today. All researchers and publishers should read the reflection of Dr. Kaelin on the current scientific literature. The former, to regain once more full consciousness of their main role in science, that is, generating knowledge only for the knowledge's sake. The latter, to stop giving priority to concepts, such as clinical translation that, if premature, would prevent rather than stimulate advances in clinical application. The opinion of Dr. Kaelin Jr. (co-awardee of the 2016 Lasker prize for his seminal work on oxygen sensing) that "the goal of a paper seems to have shifted from validating specific conclusions to making the broadest possible assertions" pinpoints a major issue in today's biological and medical publications. Many papers often include a huge amount of poorly supported, but highly impressive, claims and only a few pieces of deeply analyzed data. Therefore, as he perfectly summarizes, "breadth often compromises depth"; however, if "depth" is compromised and if breadth is taken as synonymous for both impact and translatability, the entire process that should lead to discovery and knowledge would become fallacious.

Disclosures

None declared

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