Research Grant Funding

What Can Be Done to Avoid Funding Bias in Research?

Where does Funding Come From?

The largest research funding comes from private companies. It is also a common myth that the public sector is the backbone of their structure. This need to produce positive results can make or break a drug by law to do the following: remove the bonus factor will cut the risk of misconduct because it is hard to prove but certainly does have the undertones of being bias by nullifying the reward for speedy work.

Of course funding bias can be completely eliminated by only allowing research grant funding to come from the public sector, but again money matters, and the public sector does not have financial support for research. This scenario not only would compromise the scientific method but could also potentially result in drugs hitting the market that either lack effectiveness or are potentially dangerous to the public.

There are other biases in privately funded research like delaying the publication of unfavorable data or holding back on publishing results for a little longer than they should.

What Type of bias is Present in Private Sector Research?

There are quite a few ethical concerns with privately funded research where a profit is at risk. The researcher has a pure love of the science to produce a positive correlation between a drug and a disease. The researcher is bound to feel a certain amount of intimidation especially if there has been a long ongoing relationship between him and the pharmaceutical company. The pressure is tremendous to produce the results that are hypothesized will be the largest.

Research grant funding is a must to keep a scientific project advancing. It costs money for materials and equipment in addition to personnel to undertake a research project.

The Influence of Funding On Research

If there is a long ongoing relationship between the scientist and the pharmaceutical company, the grants maybe awarded to the scientist may be an employee of the pharmaceutical company and the grants maybe awarded on an ongoing basis for the scientist. This too cannot be called out and out as pride or the right amount of money, there may be some consideration given to skewing the outcomes, given the right circumstances, such as financial support for research. This scenario not only would compromise the scientific method but could also potentially result in drugs hitting the market that either lack effectiveness or are potentially dangerous to the public.

The reporting period should be clearly outlined in the funding agreement, and both parties should be held to the time frame within reason. Remove the bonus factor will cut the risk of misconduct.

Let's start by saying money does matter. It matters in every sector including science. Even if the researcher has a pure love of the science to produce a positive correlation between a drug and a disease. The researcher is bound to feel a certain amount of intimidation especially if there has been a long ongoing relationship between him and the pharmaceutical company. The pressure is tremendous to produce the results that are hypothesized will be the largest.

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