

**Journal of  
Unsolved Questions**

**V  L U M E 12**

Ten years, still failing.

Kevin Machel – Editor in Chief

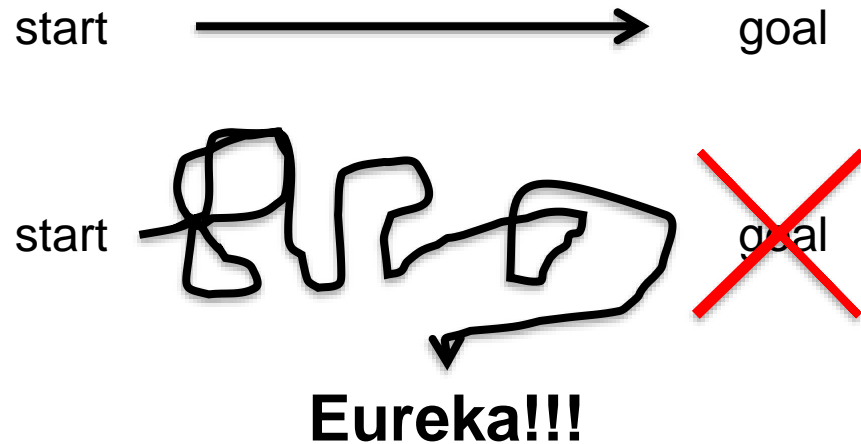
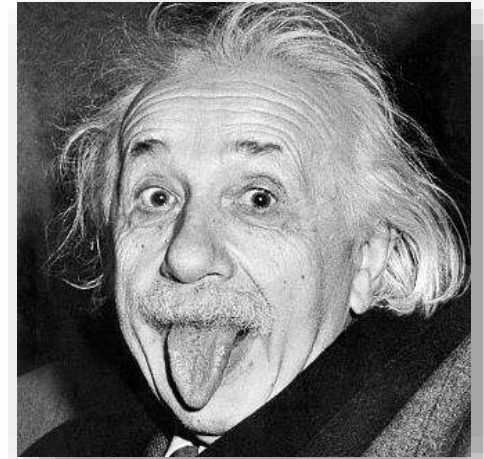


# The Problem

# TRIAL AND ERROR...

If we knew what it was we were doing, it would not be called research, would it?

– Albert Einstein



# TRIAL AND ERROR...

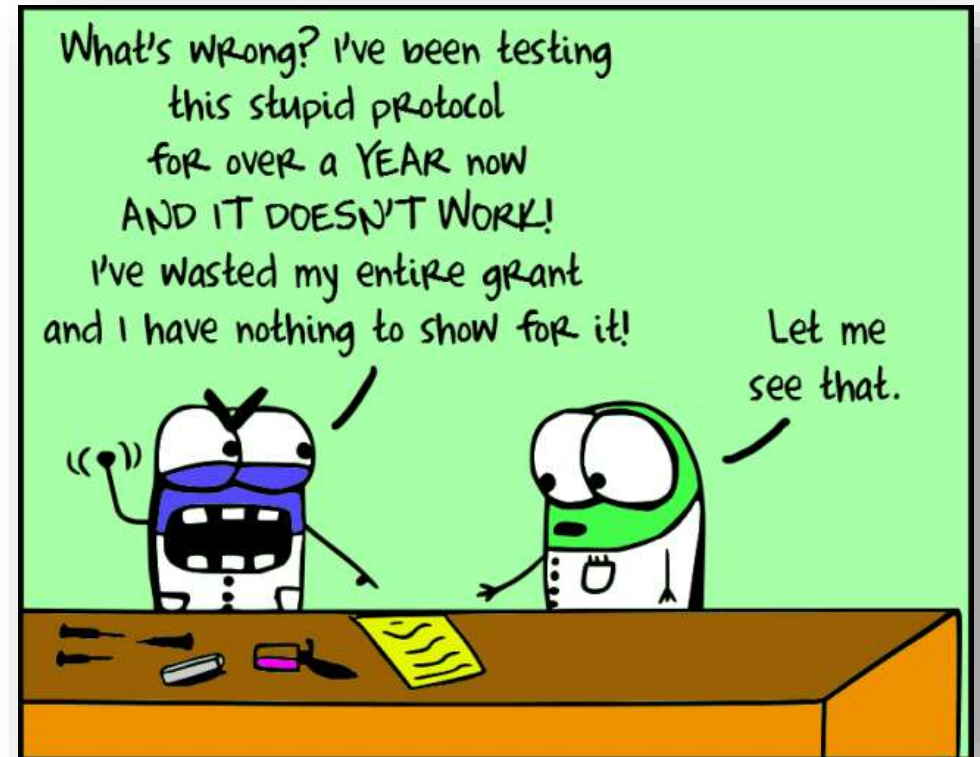
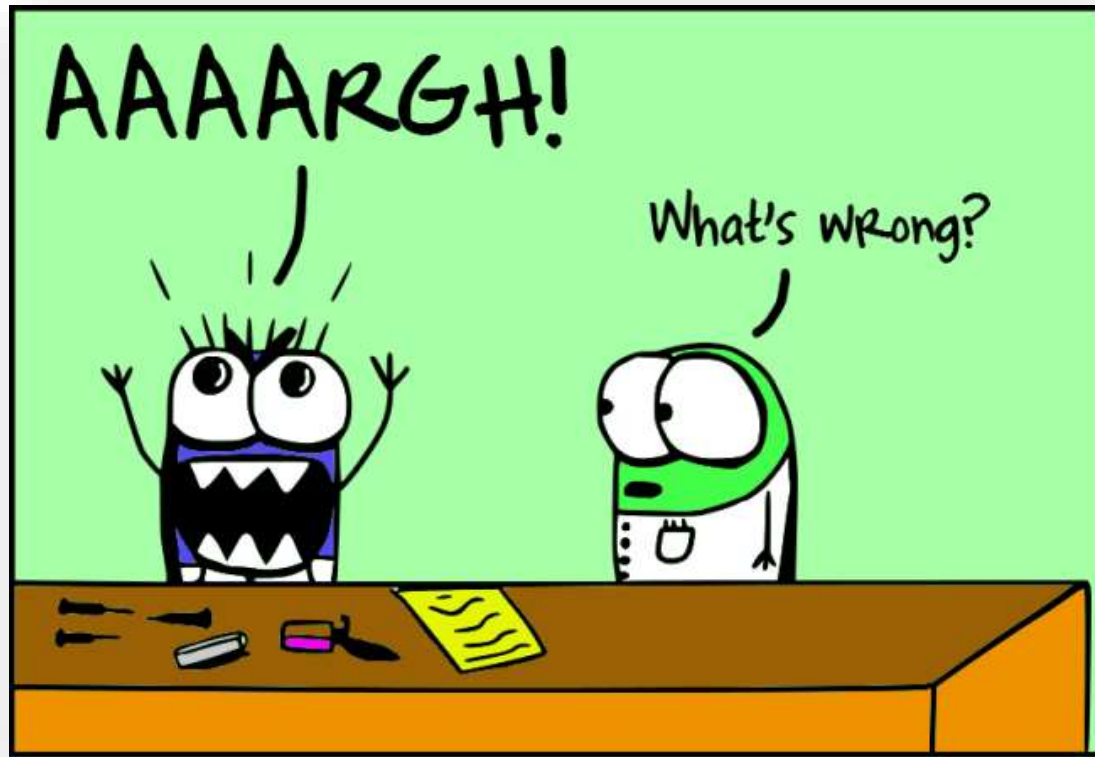
**but what to do with negative results?**

The nature of science is: First you think of something that could be true. Then you check if this is the case - and in general, it is not.

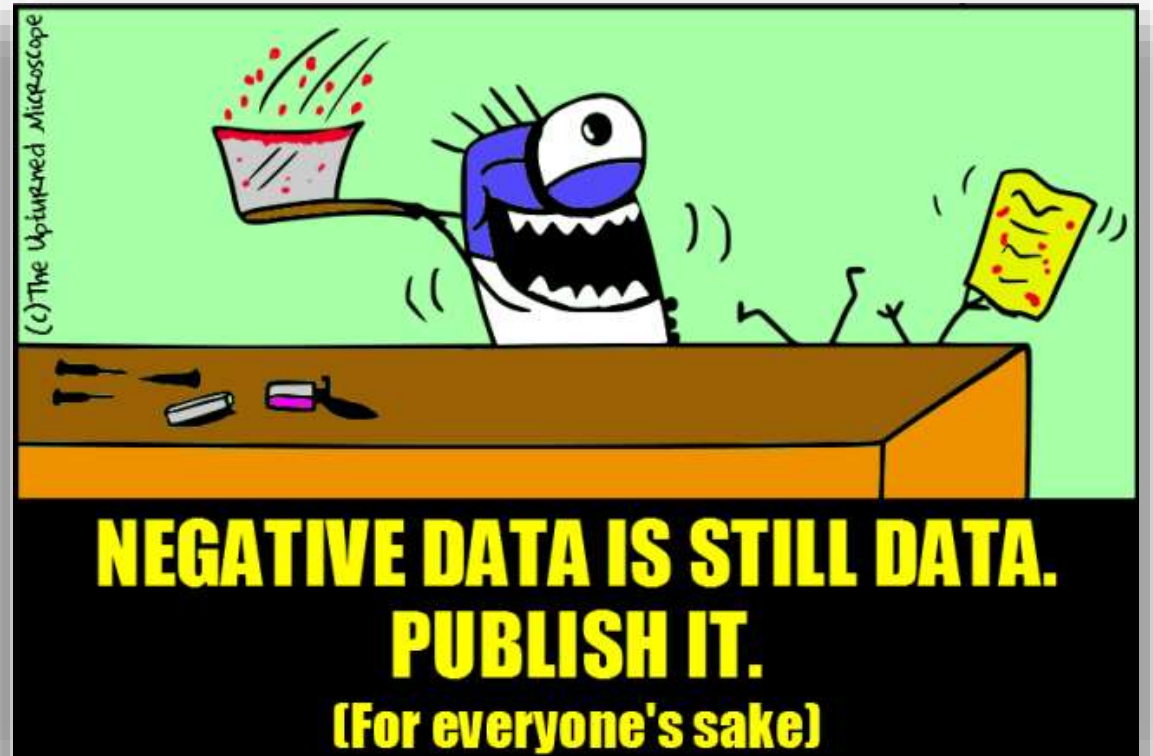
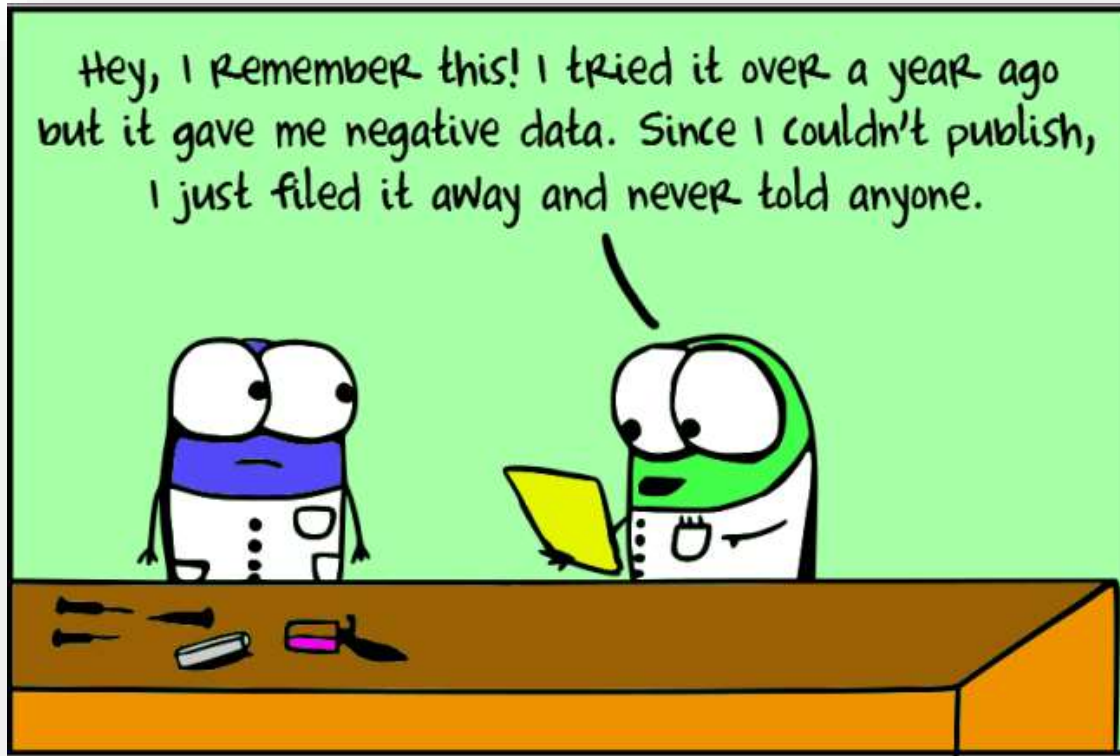
– Bertrand Russell



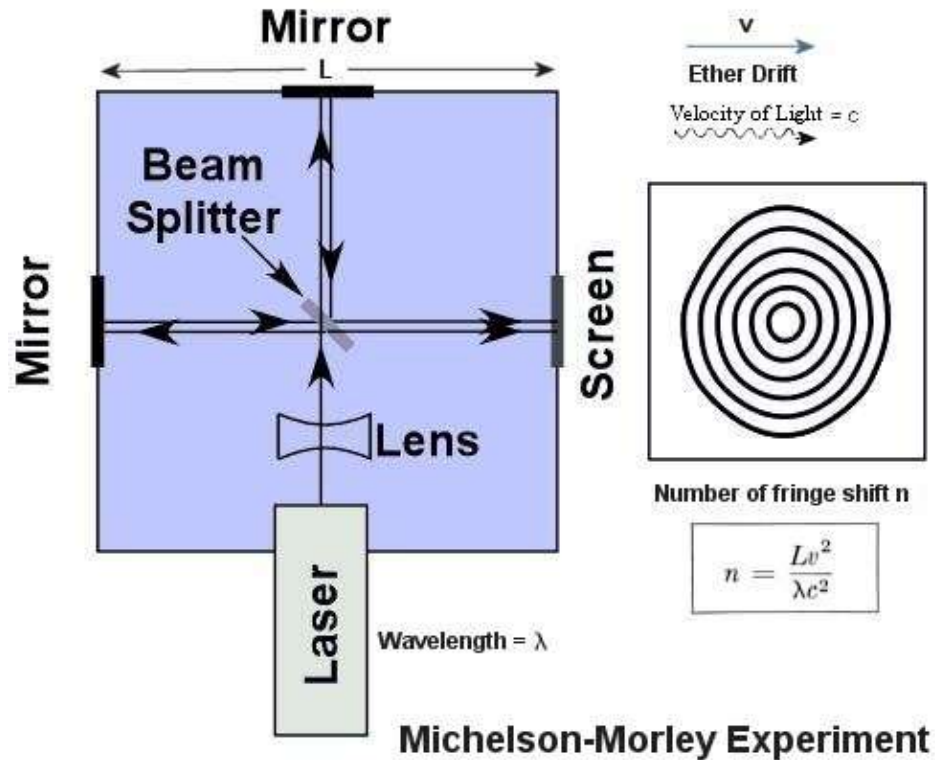
# TRIAL AND ERROR...



# TRIAL AND ERROR...



# TRIAL AND ERROR...



**They wanted to confirm the Aether theory.**

Back then it was believed that the world floats freely to a so called Aether that makes the transfer of Energy work.

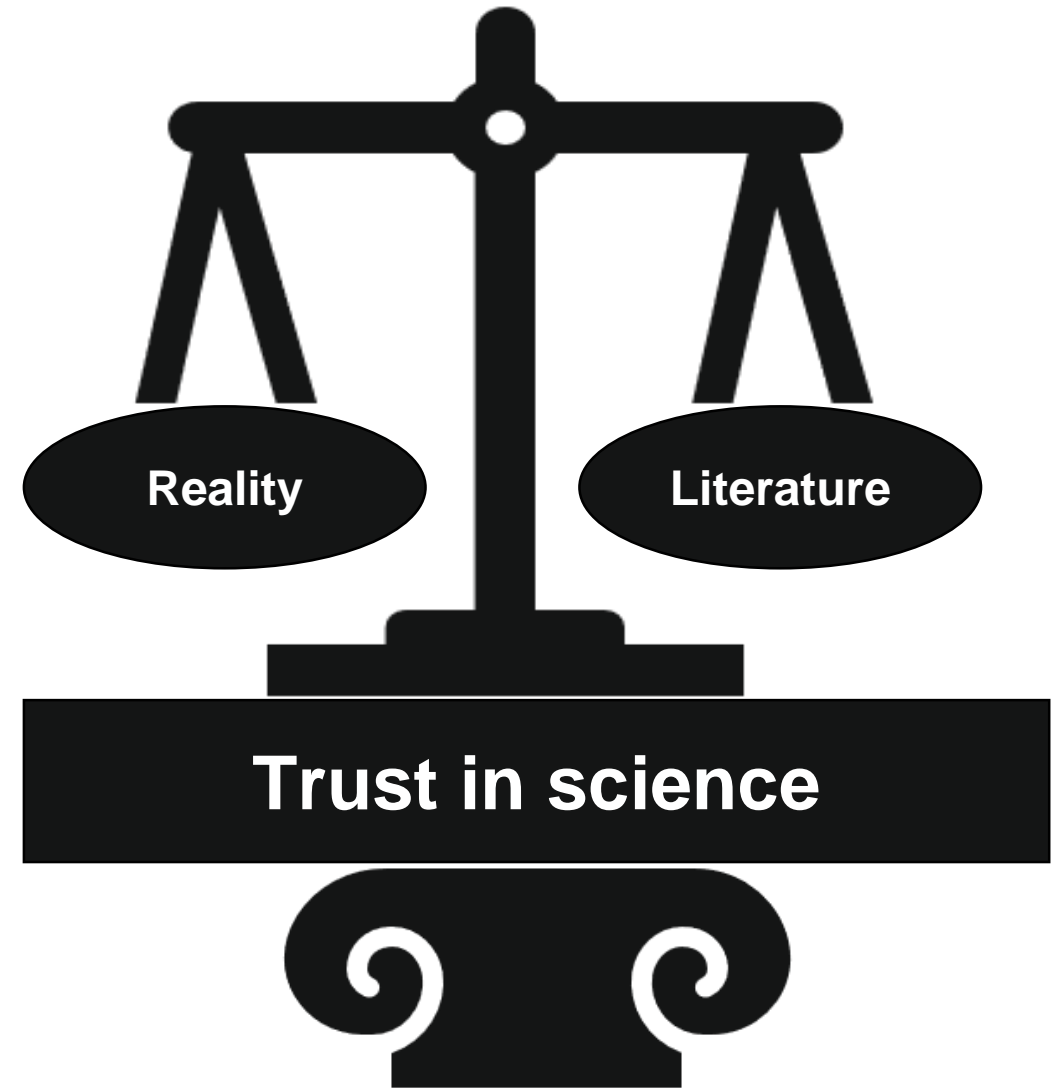
They could not produce any results that confirmed the Aether Theory.

**Negative results sometimes lead to a change of paradigm**

# PUBLICATION BIAS

If positive results get published preferably **real** and **published perspective** are **distorted**.

In medical studies e.g. **this leads to better efficacy** for treatments and **harmful effects** might even **vanish** from literature.





# PUBLICATION BIAS



# WHY NOT PUBLISHED?!



Correspondence | Published: 23 March 2011

## Negative results are published

Bob O'Hara

Nature **471**, 448–449 (24 March 2011) | [Download Citation](#)



NATURE | EDITORIAL

عربي

## Go forth and replicate!

To make replication studies more useful, researchers must make more of them, funders must encourage them and journals must publish them.

24 August 2016



EDITORIAL • 21 NOVEMBER 2017 • CORRECTION [15 DECEMBER 2017](#)

## Rewarding negative results keeps science on track

*Creating a culture of replication takes prizes, grants and magnanimity – as well as publications.*



[J Insect Sci.](#) 2016; 16(1): 109.

Published online 2016 Oct 23. doi: [10.1093/jisesa/iew092](https://doi.org/10.1093/jisesa/iew092)

PMCID: PMC5088693

PMID: [27773876](#)

## The Importance of Publishing Negative Results

[Phyllis G. Weintraub](#)

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# WHY NOT PUBLISHED?!

*“Publishing negative results is a waste of resources”*

“Should I publish negative results or does this ruin my career in science?”  
by Sven Hendrix (*Smart Science Career*)

*“Low impact factor because editors hate boring data”*

# WHY NOT PUBLISHED?!

## Subscription based journals

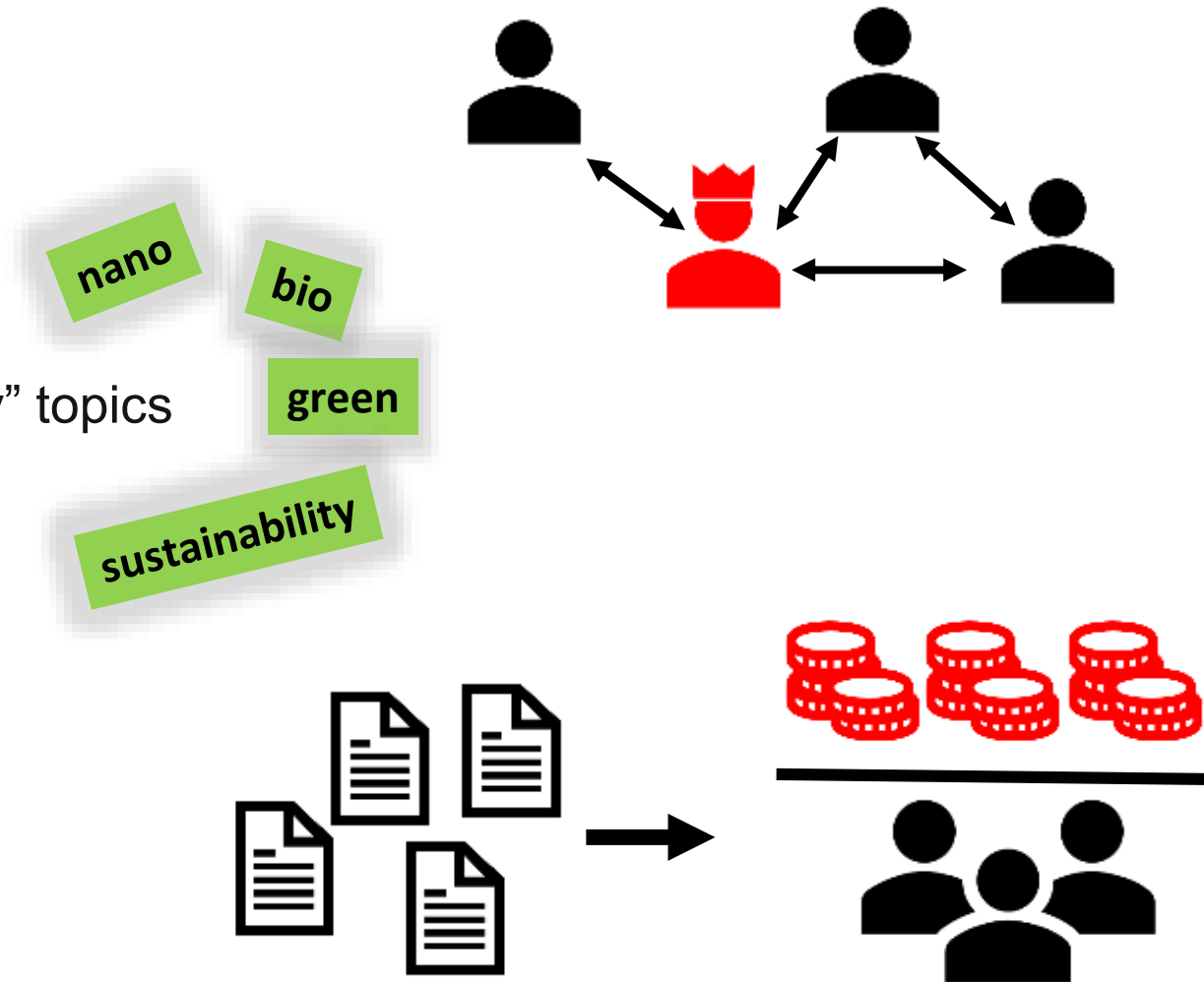
Aim: Many subscribers / citations

Achieve by: Research for broad audience → “sexy” topics

## Open Access journals

Aim: Publish many articles

Achieve by: Partially questionable quality control

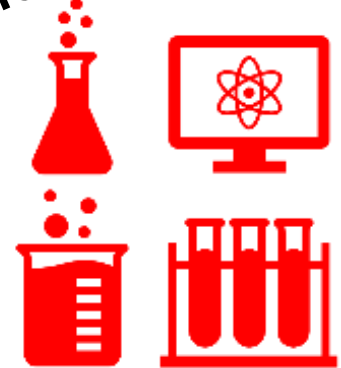


# WHY NOT PUBLISHED?!

Reputation



Effort



Time



Priorities



**JUnQ**

**A Solution**



Published **2-times a year** (print and online) as full **open access journal**.

**Wide range of topics** revolving around a main-theme. Containing articles, essays and interviews.

**Editorial board** consist of **students, PhDs and Post-Docs**, all volunteers.

# HOW IT STARTED...

Founded in 2011 @ MAINZ Graduate School by Leonie Mück and Thomas Jagau.

The project was **perfectly in tune** with the **Zeitgeist** in the **research community** back then.

A lot of **different projects** were started **all over the world** by now.



1. Positively Negative (PLOS One)
2. The Missing Pieces: A Collection of Negative; Null and Inconclusive Results (PLOS One)
3. The All Results Journals
4. ACS Omega (ACS Publications)
5. F1000Research
6. PeerJ
7. Journal of Negative Results in Biomedicine
8. Journal of Negative Results – Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
9. Journal of Articles in Support of the Null Hypothesis
10. Journal of Pharmaceutical Negative results



# HOW IT'S GOING...

Total peer-reviewed articles:

**13 Publications**

Total amount of publications:

**More than 120 Articles, Interviews...**

Talks about not completely solved Topics.

soon to come: **“failure is *not* an option”**





JUnQ



The Team





Just in time. any **Unsolved Questions** left?