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Responsibilities of scientists and trust in research

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Introduction

Trust is firm belief in the reliability, truth, or ability of someone or something

Task of researcher: *inform* the general public about new research results

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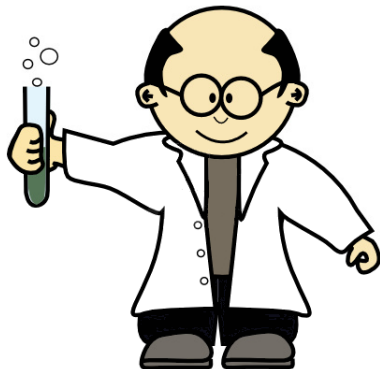
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Danger:

- incomplete information
 - underestimation of danger (earthquake in Italy)
 - panic (pandemic)
- oversight and misdiagnosis (incomplete examination of the patient)
- results can be used for other (bad) purposes (nuclear fusion)

Interaction with society

- Society has a right to be informed
- Researchers:
 - Tell the whole truth
 - Explain all possibilities
 - Be careful with the formulation
 - Never be surefooted
 - Prepare to take the responsibility



Gaining trust

- Society can only trust in ethical research and ethically presented data
- Legislation and ethical codes (e.g. Declaration of Helsinki) guide researchers
- Either voluntary or binding
- Research misconduct cannot be prevented completely
- Intentional vs. unintentional behaviour

Privacy and research

- Public access, openness and transparency
- Data contained personal information (i.e. medical data)
- Requirement to protect subjects personal integrity and private information
- 4 concepts:
 - Secrecy
 - Professional secrecy
 - Anonymity
 - Confidentiality

Conclusion

