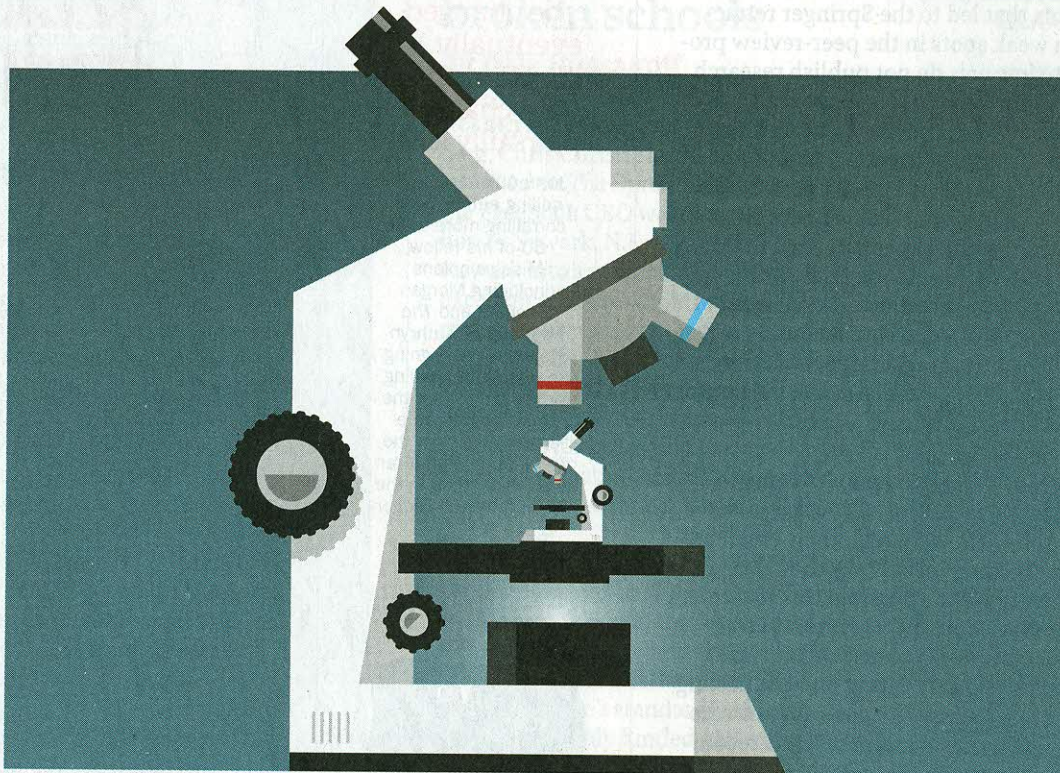


The View

'PROGRAMS LIKE WELFARE ARE A SHORT-TERM SOLUTION: THEY MAKE POVERTY LESS PAINFUL, NOT LESS PERMANENT' —PAGE 20



Recent scandals in the realm of science research call into question the validity of some published work

SCIENCE

Modern science has a publish-or-perish problem

By Jeffrey Kluger

GOT A SPARE \$14,800? IF SO, YOU CAN be first co-author on a new research paper about cancer. Want to add a friend? That'll be \$26,300.

Those are—or were—the going rates for bylines from a Chinese publishing outfit offering to make life easier for academics in need of a quick career boost. “The heavy labor can be left to us,” promised the sales document. “Our service can help you make progress in your academic path!”

The scam was exposed by the journal *Science* in a 2013 sting, but nobody pretended that that remotely meant the end of scientific fraud. As competition grows for tenured positions at universities and plum jobs at prestige hospitals, the temptation to fudge results, tweak data and invent studies wholesale has pushed some

scientists to the academic dark side.

On Aug. 18, Springer, a major academic publishing company, announced that it was retracting 64 papers because of irregularities in the peer-review process. That followed a similar retraction of 43 papers by one Springer imprint late last year. In the early 2000s, an average of 30 research papers were withdrawn per year; in 2011 alone, the figure was 400.

The website Retraction Watch—the very existence of which says a lot—keeps an eye on such things. The site includes a leaderboard listing the 30 scientists worldwide with the most retractions to their names. The winner: Yoshitaka Fujii, a Japanese expert in postoperative nausea, who has a whopping 183 my-bads. That is obviously bad news for Fujii, but it

