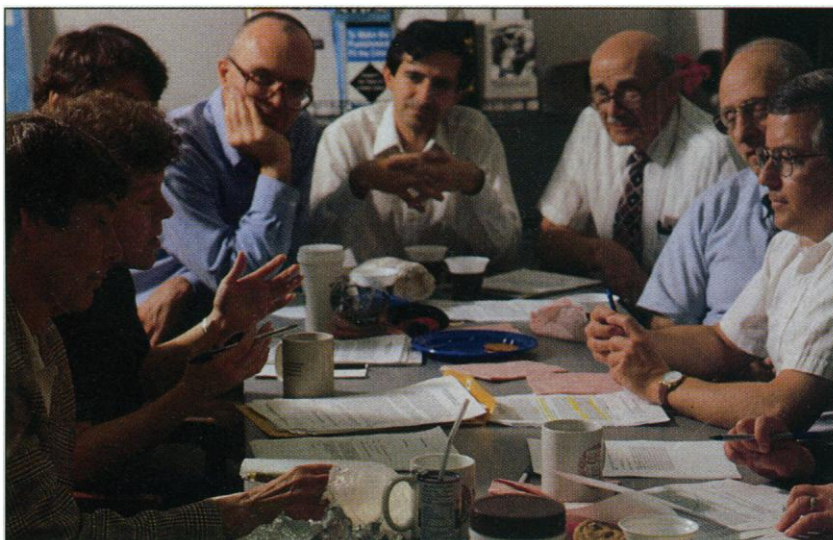


# SCIENCE

## Conduct in Science



Discussion over lunch turns to scientific conduct (see p. 1716)

**T**his special news report focuses on two of the most important factors in human life—the need to work together in groups and the drive for individual glory—as they appear in science. Inevitably, these two imperatives clash, and when they do, the results can be painful, as Jon Cohen describes in the first story in this package: “The Culture of Credit” (p. 1706). But obviously collaboration often goes smoothly. What is more, some researchers are renowned for their generosity to colleagues with credit, data, and materials. Because journalism often tends to focus on the negative, we thought this was a good place to balance the record by calling attention to researchers who are regarded by their peers as paragons, and Cohen’s story does that, too.

That same principle applies to the rest of the stories in this report. An article by Eliot Marshall on an authorship dispute that has slowed publication of potentially important animal studies on a new vaccine (p. 1712) is balanced by a profile of a researcher whose peers admire him for how generously he behaves with his junior colleagues (p. 1713). A piece by Cohen on materials sharing (p. 1715) includes descriptions of researchers who are perceived by their peers as exemplars of generosity along with those who are sometimes perceived as less than completely openhanded. Those stories are complemented by a series of sidebars by Gary Taubes describing some particularly successful and innovative programs for teaching faculty and students about good conduct in science.

As you read this package, it will become clear that most of the examples are drawn from biological science. That is no accident. Biology today is perhaps the most fiercely competitive arena of the natural sciences. Moreover, the threatened cutbacks in funding mean that the competition can only become fiercer in the

years ahead—and that will no doubt bring with it more collisions between the ethic of collaboration and the drive for glory. That doesn’t mean that such conflicts don’t exist in other areas of science, nor that those areas aren’t important to our news coverage. They are, and we will return to them in the future.

One corollary of focusing on the culture of biology today is that it inevitably entails discussing some of the nitty-gritty details of molecular biology. Those details come up right away in our package—in the story of gene splicing, which kicks off Cohen’s first article. We didn’t think we could do justice to this controversy without describing some of the molecular biology itself. But because issues of conduct are critical to all our readers—not just biologists—this is the only place in that story, or indeed, in the package as a whole, where the discussion focuses on the details of the biology.

We hope you’ll be stimulated by this special report—enough to want to respond with your own ideas, experiences, and questions about scientific conduct. And for that purpose, as a *Science* experiment, we’re creating an interactive, on-line version of this project. “Science Conduct On-Line” can be found in the “Beyond the Printed Page” section of *Science*’s home page (<http://www.aaas.org/science/science.html>) beginning on 23 June. In addition to reading this entire package, you’ll be able to read ethical scenarios presented by a panel of experts on scientific conduct. You’ll be able to send the panel your comments, along with your own experiences relating to science conduct and any questions you have. They’ll post interesting comments and their responses, so that we can initiate an on-line dialogue about a subject that can only increase in importance with the passage of time: Conduct in Science.

—John Benditt

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### A Special News Report