Replication and Trust in Science: What does the Haruko Obokata (STAP) case tell us?

An essential feature of good experimental science is that it should be reproducible. Unfortunately, recent reports have suggested that an astoundingly high percentage of published science is not reproducible. The reasons for this finding are certainly numerous, including the possibility of misconduct. The problem with reproducibility and possible solutions will be discussed in light of the 2014 retraction of Haruko Obokata’s “stimulus-triggered acquisition of pluripotency” (STAP) paper in Nature. Despite peer review and publication, the work could not be replicated. Later investigations uncovered image manipulation, plagiarism, and inadequate supervision and involvement by co-authors.

Should peer review have identified these difficulties prior to publication? What can scientists as individuals or as a community do to mitigate the problem of irreproducibility? Do we need more trust in science — or less?

EVENT DETAILS: April 15th from 4:30-6:30 PM, Garren Auditorium, First Floor, Biomedical Sciences Building

Moderated by Mike Kalichman, Director, UCSD Research Ethics Program

Light refreshments will be served. CME credit available.

Floyd E. Bloom is Professor Emeritus in the Molecular and Integrative Neuroscience Department at The Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, California, where he was formerly Chairman of the Department of Neuropharmacology. A member of the National Academy of Sciences and the Institute of Medicine, he has received honorary degrees from major universities, and was the Editor-in-Chief of Science from 1995-2000. He attended Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree cum laude and then a Doctor of Medicine degree from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. Dr. Bloom has authored or co-authored 32 books and monographs, 415 original research articles, 256 solicited articles and reviews, 59 editorials, and more than 300 abstracts.

To register, please visit: http://replicationandtrustseminar.eventbrite.com
For questions, please contact: Courtney McGowan, cbmccgowan@ucsd.edu