

Are All Clinical Studies Sponsored by Industry Not Valid?

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Abstract

Industry-sponsored studies have such a bad reputation that some journals require an additional statistical analysis by an independent statistician. This commentary discusses some of the reasons why academic people tend to believe that “academic” science is better than industry-driven science. Most likely, when it comes to publications, the risk of fraud exists in both worlds as the pressure to publish “significant” data is prevalent in both worlds. In contrast to the academic world, the level of control by regulatory bodies for industry-sponsored studies is much higher. Therefore, the quality of industry-driven studies is high, at least when it comes to the quality of data. One of the main reasons why academic people are so skeptical about the pharmaceutical industry is a lack of knowledge about the work done in industry. It is as demanding and scientific as in other industries. In turn, many physicians working in the pharmaceutical industry have low self-esteem. Also, the pharmaceutical industry should improve its self-presentation adequately to get rid of its bad image. There is a clear need for more communication between both worlds in order to better understand the mutual difficulties and needs.

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