

## S3-1

### Are negative results no achievements? - Academic cases

Chie Furihata (Biological Science, School of Science & Engineering, Aoyama Gakuin University)  
cfuri@cc.aoyama.ac.jp

*Keywords:* Negative results; Academic cases; Negative results database

#### 1) Negative results have no value in the University laboratory.

Negative results mean that results of the experimental group are not different from those of the negative control group. In recent years, the trend has been to publish only studies with 'significant' results and to ignore studies that seem uneventful. We mostly look for new significant findings. Negative results are promptly put away in the storage and forgotten in the University laboratory, because negative results are rejected as publications in most of scientific journals and consequently have no value.

#### 2) How about marginal data?

When we can show statistical significance of the marginal data, we write a paper and submit it to some journal. However, when we cannot show statistical significance of the marginal data, we put away the data in the storage and forget them.

#### 3) Fabricated experimental data in University

Sometimes we hear withdrawal of fabricated experimental data in University from famous scientific journals. Scientists pursue the honor of discovery. Recently scientists in University are always required to make great progress.

#### 4) The Failure Knowledge Database

Recently Dr. Yotaro Hatamura directed the methodology for case analysis of the failure knowledge database (<http://shippa.jst.go.jp/index.html>). He proposed that the Failure Knowledge Database stores accidents and failures as shared knowledge with lessons. Accidents and failures were hidden until quite recently and others made a similar failure again. Dr. Hatamura pointed out that sometimes accidents and failures will be a seed of a new discovery.

#### 5) Journal of Negative Results

Negative results in our research field of environmental mutagens, genetic toxicity, and chemical risk assessment are different from experimental failure; however, it was similar that the results were ignored. It is important information that a chemical shows no genetic effects with authorized test methods. However there were few journals that accept such results to be published. Recently few journals dealing with negative results were started. For example, "Journal of Negative Results in Biomedicine" (<http://www.jnrbm.com/>) is an online journal, started in 2002 edited by Dr. B. R. Olsen, Harvard Medical School. I would like to propose to start on line "Negative Results in Genes and Environment" on JEMS home in near future.

Negative dataは業績ゼロカーアカデミックの状況  
降旗 千恵 (青山学院大学・理工学部)