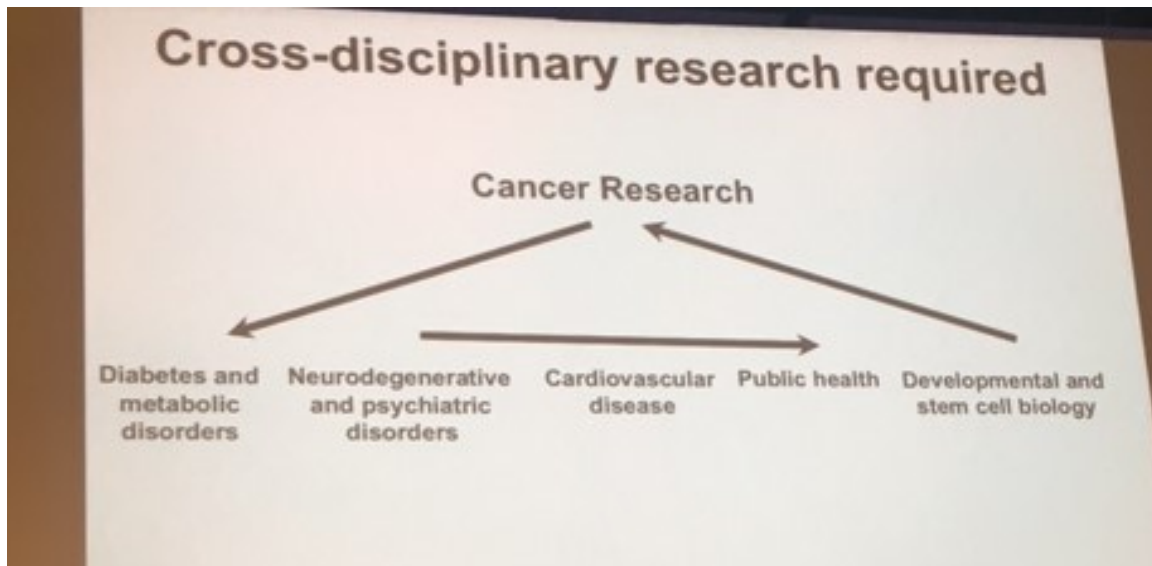


Nor Doc Nordic PhD Summit

Hi,

August 21.-22. I attended the newly established NorDoc Conference at Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, as an administrative spy on behalf of EPINOR. It is possible that EPINOR will join the NorDoc collaboration in the future.



NorDoc was founded by Aarhus University, the University of Bergen, the University of Copenhagen, the University of Gothenburg, the University of Helsinki, the University of Iceland and Karolinska Institutet September 2016. The administration sits at Aarhus University until 2018.

“The annual Nordic PhD Summit brings PhD students from the Nordics together for two days of interaction and scientific discussions – focusing on Nordic research strengths and how to get the most out of your PhD. The meeting is open to all interested – PhD students, postdocs, supervisors and faculty!

This interdisciplinary meeting will place your research in a larger perspective, provide ideas for your future career, broaden your network, and with a focus on publishing, innovation and scientific outreach, equip you with tools for disseminating science in today's world.» (nordoehealth.net)

University in Bergen, Oslo and NTNU are all members of this cooperation together with most of the relevant universities in the Nordic Region.

In many ways NorDoc works as EPINOR on a Nordic scale: they have listed all PhD courses that the all the members offer and they are encouraging students to pick courses across institutions. They will host this kind of conference once a year and the next one is in Helsinki.

My general comments from the conference (At the end of my story you find a link to the complete program):

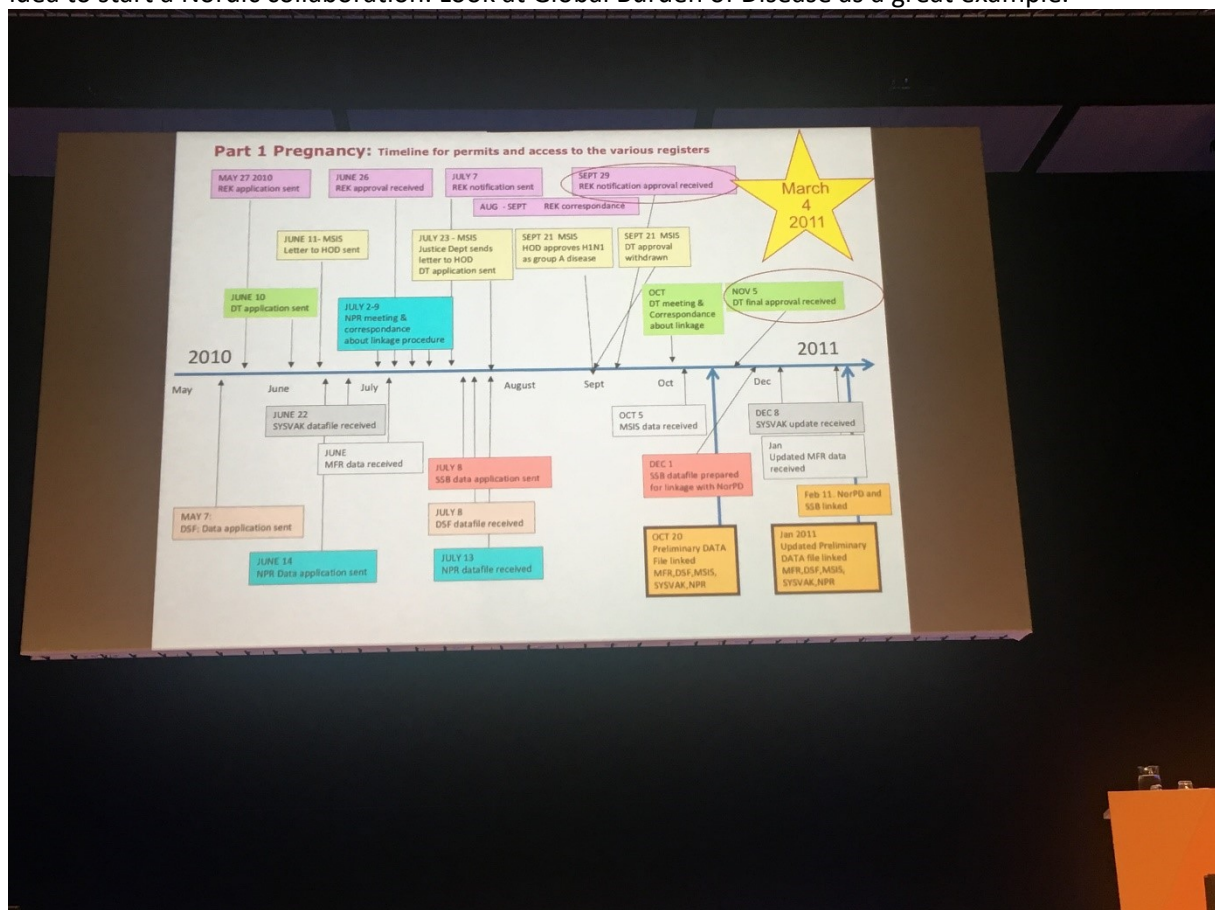
The first session had the heading: Strengths in Nordic Research across borders – Nordic Registry and Big Data.

Day 1

Ole Petter Ottesen (vice-chancellor KI) and Marianne Schulzberg (Dean of Doctoral Education KI): value of Nordic Collaboration in Doctoral education

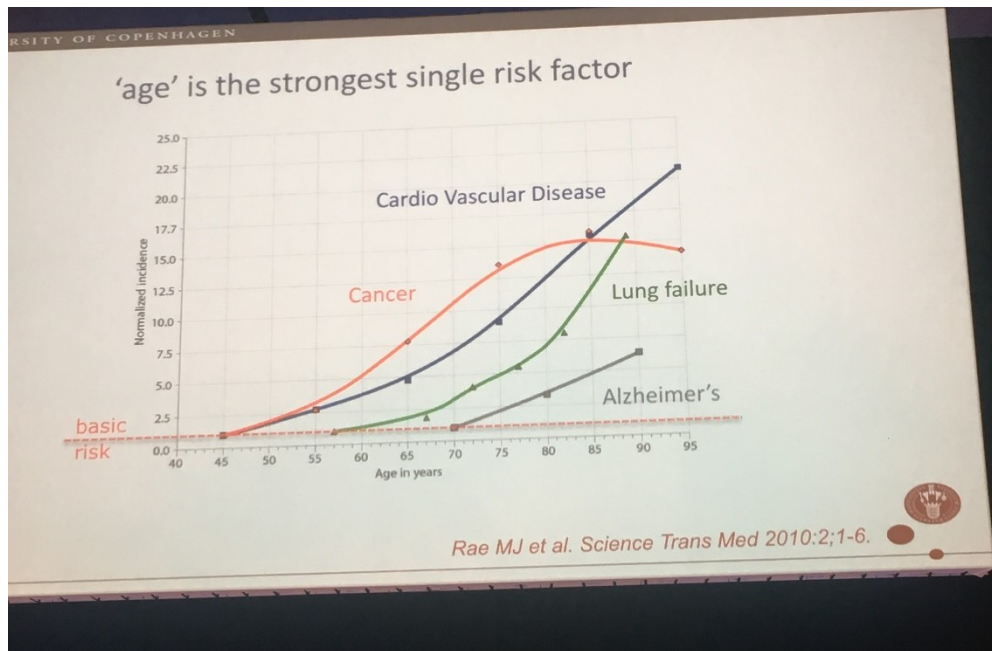
Camilla Stoltenberg (Director General, Norwegian institute of Public Health, Norway):

It is too difficult to access data. It takes too much time to access the different registries because the systems are too difficult and not streamlined, because you have to have ethical approval on each single study, because of the culture among scientists to not share. This is also a political issue. Great idea to start a Nordic collaboration. Look at Global Burden of Disease as a great example.



Picture from Stoltenberg showing two intricate years to finish a study about vaccines and pregnancy. The data was there, but it took two years to access them.

Rudi GJ Westendorp (University of Copenhagen): very enthusiastic about his own research on age. Westendorp commented every single lecture at the conference. Stressed the need for interdisciplinary research and of nordic cooperation to have a greater impact outside the Nordic Borders.



Miia Kivipelto (KI):

The Finger Project!: <https://www.thl.fi/fi/web/thlfi-en/research-and-expertwork/projects-and-programmes/finger-research-project>. Have developed a research design that easily can be adjusted to other cultures for research on dementia.

Discovery from the poster presentations:

The Post doc training program FIMMPOD. Give us some good ideas to events and career promoting activities in EPINOR and in general at Norwegian Universities.

Session two: Thematic Breakout sessions in

Cancer, Infection and Inflammation

Diabetes, Metabolic Disorders

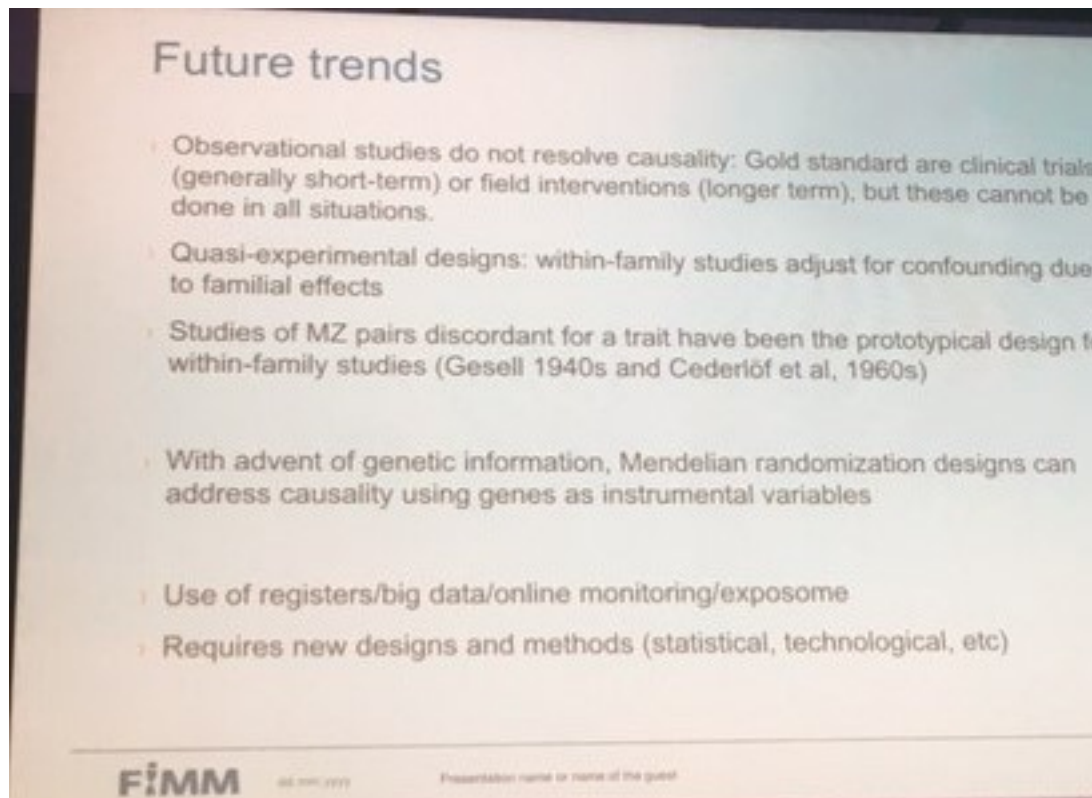
Neurodegenerative and Psychiatric Disorders

Cardiovascular Disease

Public Health

Developmental Biology, Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine.

I attended the Public Health Session – held by **Professor Jaakko Kaprio**, Director of the Institute for Molecular Medicine Finland. We had group discussions about what we thought the future research of Public Health would be about. (Picture from Kaprio's slides)



Big opportunity in the Nordic countries to do more registry based research. Almost a sort of Hallelujah-vibration in the room. The Danes were super proud of their registries. Get the researcher out of their cubicle and share the data with others. Interdisciplinary research – qualitative, quantitative.

Interesting project in my opinion: One Professor from Aarhus told us about a new idea they had to measure happiness by monitoring the use of # on Twitter and Instagram. It showed where in London people are #happy #feelinghappy etc. Some places on the map had bigger concentrations on #happy. What makes it a happy place?

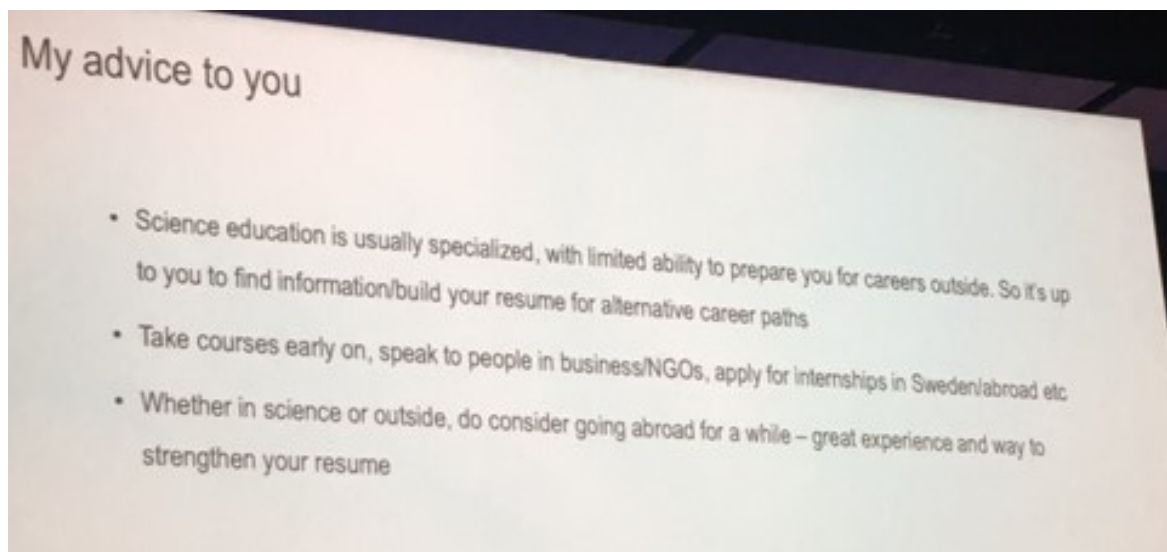
The Breakout Sessions were summed up by their Theme Chairs in plenum afterwards.

Day 2

Plenary Session III: Innovation and Entrepreneurial Collaboration

The first half of the second day was mostly about the future career of PhD students. They had speed dating between PhD-students and career options/experts, as well as inspiring lectures from a venture capitalist, Novo Nordisk and a researcher who had an idea that became a multimillion dollar company. The students I talked to were very pleased with the career guidance.

Slide from the career guidance **by Nina Rawal** at Industrifonden (Venture Capitol)



After lunch

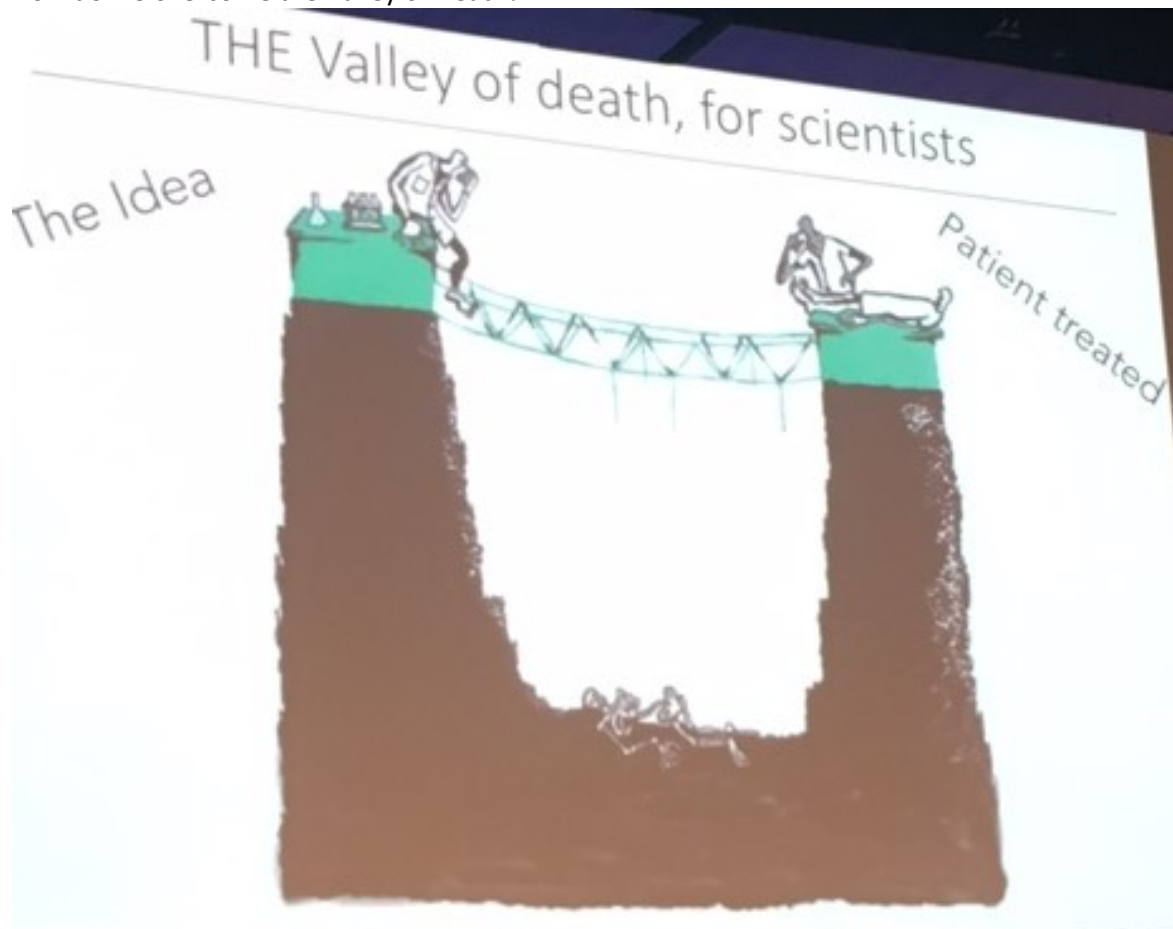
Bernd Pulverer, Chief Editor from The EMBO Journal spoke about Transparent Publishing, Preprints and Open Science. How to publish reproducible data. Trends like beautification (Photoshop) of pictures are making it harder to review articles.

We should publish all the data, not just the polished articles. Electronic Journals makes it possible to publish big data sets and all kinds of results so that other scientists can pick up where others have left. SHare your data!

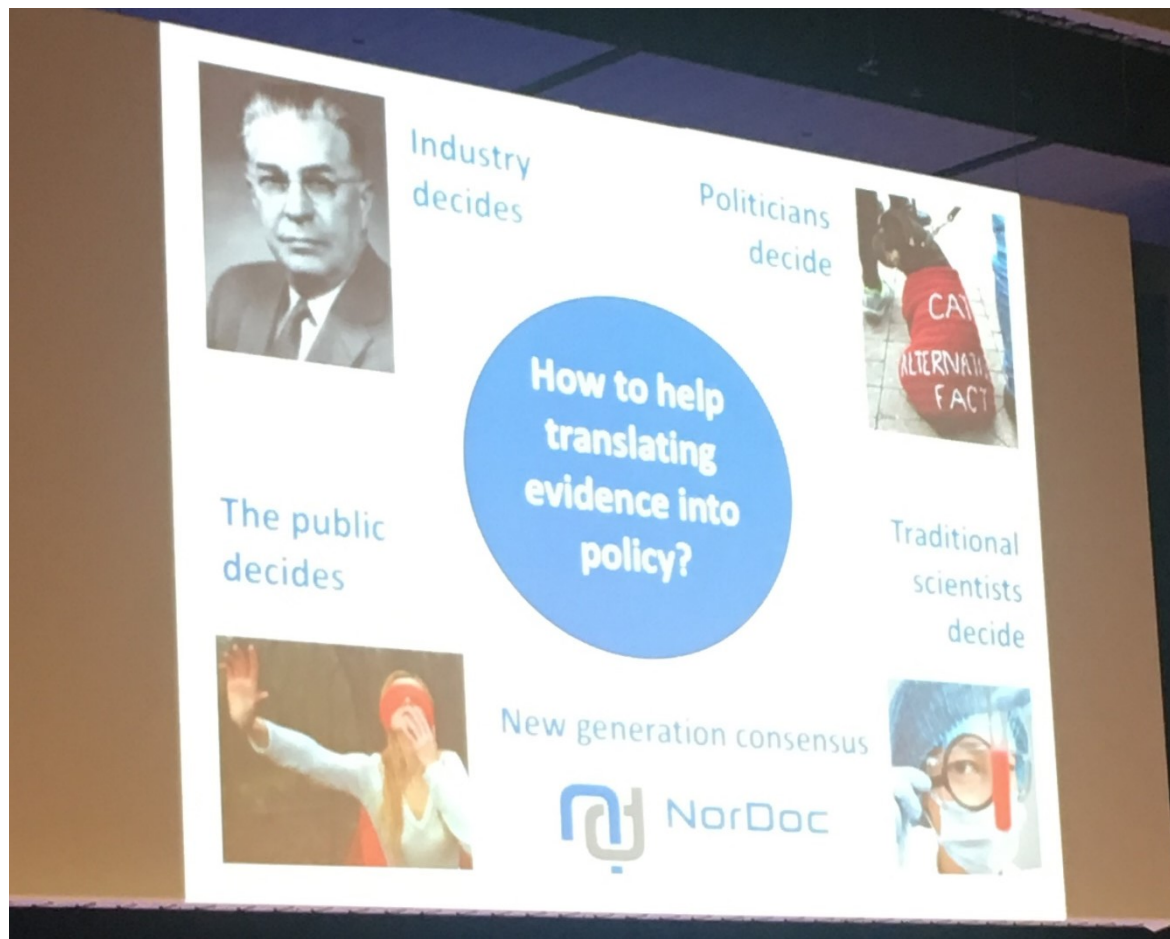


Phillipe Grandjean (Head of Environmental Medicine Research Unit at the UNiversity of Southern Denmark): How to best interact scientifically with politicians for the greater good
His speech is best illustrated by these two slides.

How do we overcome the Valley of Death?



In the time of «alternative Facts», who should be the one translating the evidence into policy? A new generation of Consensus, starting here and now at NorDoc.



Ayo Wahlberg (UiCopenhagen): qualitative research is just as important as quantitative research within health science – big picture!

The last lecture I heard was about Effective Scientific Outreach. In my opinion the lecturer had not followed the latest communication trends. It might however mean that researchers in general are not following the latest communication trends.. NorDoc did not have its own # f.ex.

[Link to complete program](#)



The beautiful conference venue at Karolinska Institutet

Bente Schønning
Administrative Coordinator
EPINOR

The Mission Nature vs Nature

19th century
scientist

I must find the
explanation for this
phenomenon in order
to truly understand
Nature...



21st centurt
scientist

I must get the
result that fits my
narrative so I can
get my paper into
Nature..



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