THE HEALTHCARE TRIAGE PODCAST

SPECIAL SERIES: SCIENCE CULTURE & REPRODUCIBILITY

Episode Six

Description

This podcast series focuses on the relationship between science culture and reproducibility. In this sixth episode, we discuss a problem with science culture that can sometimes be a little hush-hush: Mentorship, training, and authority in the lab.

Materials needed

- **A device capable of playing podcasts**
- **Internet connection for downloading or streaming audio**
- **Access to sources listed within lesson guide**

- **Make sure students know how to download/listen to podcasts:**
  - **https://www.wired.com/story/podcasts-beginners-guide/**

- Episode 6

Learning goals

- **Understand the issues surrounding the overproduction of PhDs**
- **Discuss the career prospects of PhD students within and outside of academia and if those prospects generally seem clear to prospective and current students**
- **Discuss the way we train PhD students, including what we train them to prioritize/value, and if/how we educate them about alternative career paths**

Suggested topics of discussion and related literature

1) Are we training too many PhDs? And are we giving them realistic expectations and information about their career prospects?

- Are our universities producing too many PhDs?
- Too Many PhDs? Too Many MDs?
- Careers of Young Scientists:: Preferences, Prospects and Realities by Gender and Field
- Academia-focused PhD curricula fail students' needs

2) Are we instilling the right values in PhD students when it comes to rigorous science?

- Forcing PhD students to publish is bad for science
- Training students for the Open Science future
- Explore the *Bullied Into Bad Science* website

Other general points of discussion:

1)How have your own experiences resonated with what our experts had to say in this episode?

2) Have you seen examples in your own academic environment of some of the issues discussed here (an overabundance of trainees, lack of training in alternative career prospects)?

3) Do you think there's a problem with our model of mentorship and training in science? Do you know people who have experienced problems with mentorship, and are they comfortable talking about it?

4) Considering what we've talked about so far in this series, what reasons do you think mentors may have for engaging in some of the behaviors discussed in this episode?