

An occasional column, in which Caveman and other troglodytes involved in cell science emerge to share their views on various aspects of life-science research. Messages for Caveman and other contributors can be left at caveman@biologists.com. Any correspondence may be published in forthcoming issues.



Ethical behavior in science

Commandments for ethical behavior in science (with apologies to Moses).

1. Thou shalt be scholarly in thy work and uphold science as an honorable profession.
2. Thou shalt criticize the work, publications and ideas of thy colleague only to the extent that thou art self-critical.
3. Thou shalt acknowledge the work and contributions of thy colleague.
4. Thou shalt not plagiarize, or steal ideas or data from thy colleague.
5. Thou shalt not covert thy colleague's success.
6. Thou shalt review manuscripts and grant applications in confidence and not use them for thy personal gain.
7. Thou shalt not fabricate or falsify data, or deceive thy colleague by ignoring or omitting data that contradict thy conclusions.
8. Thou shalt mentor thy students as if they were thy children.
9. Thou shalt remember and honor thy predecessors as the giants upon whose shoulders thou now stands.
10. Thou shalt strive to be hypothesis driven in all aspects of thy work.
11. Thou shalt explain thy science to lay-persons, administrators and politicians, for it is they who support thy work.
12. Thou shalt not give away thy student's project, or government-funded work for commercial gain.

Caveman

