

Today's common sense can be changed tomorrow

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Erin J. Nas reviewed a book entitled "Changing the conversation" (1). We must know two facts. One is that scientific claims can be changed tomorrow. Another is that the lay public does not know that science is tentative and scientific claims can be changed (2, 3). Once scientific claims were changed, the lay public may lose trust in scientists. Once the trust lost, rebuilding trust in scientists is really hard. Therefore, public science policy should be addressed: all scientific claims are tentative and they may be changed tomorrow. Scientists must understand that their science is fragile and tentative, and that all scientific claims as of today can be changed tomorrow. Scientists should be modest/discreet and cautious against scientific claims. Today's common sense can be changed tomorrow.

References:

1. Erin J. Nas, Changing the conversation, Science 24 Aug 2018: Vol. 361, Issue 6404, pp. 760
2. <http://science.sciencemag.org/content/359/6380/1094/tab-e-letters>
3. <http://science.sciencemag.org/content/358/6362/427/tab-e-letters>