

ANNEXE 9 : On Rigole

Humor: A Guide to Effective Scientific Communication

Phrase	Translation
It has long been known	I haven't bothered to look up the reference
It is believed	I think
It is generally believed	A couple of other guys think so too
It is not unreasonable to assume	If you believe this, you'll believe anything
In my experience	Once
In case after case	Twice
In a series of cases	Three times.
According to statistical analysis	Rumour has it
Of great theoretical importance	I find it kind of interesting
Of great practical importance	I can get some mileage out of it
Typical results are shown	The best results are shown
Three samples were chosen for further study	The others didn't make sense, so we ignored them
The 4-hour sample was not studied	I dropped it on the floor
The 4-hour determination may not be significant	I dropped it on the floor, but I scooped most of it up
The significance of these results is unclear	Look at the pretty artifact
It has not been possible to provide definitive answers	The experiment was negative, but at least I can publish the data somewhere
Correct within an order of magnitude	Wrong
It might be argued that	I have such a good answer for this objection that I shall now raise it
Much additional work will be required	This paper is not very good, but neither are all the others in this miserable field

These investigations proved highly rewarding

My grant is going to be renewed

I thank X for assistance with the experiments and
Y for useful discussions of the data

X did the experiment; Y explained it to me

A careful analysis of obtainable data...

Three pages of notes were obliterated when I
knocked over a glass of beer

The most reliable results are those of Jones

He was my graduate assistant