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### Speech by Richard Harris Story

So much good has come out of scientific research. We have flu shots to help prevent influenza which was considered deadly in 1918. We have polio vaccines to help prevent paralysis. With all this good that has happened, it is hard to talk about the negative aspects regarding scientific research.

On Thursday October 19, 2017, Richard Harris, a NPR science correspondent, came to the Spurlock Museum to give a speech entitled "Science Friction: What's Slowing Progress in Research." Harris shared information with the audience on what he thinks is wrong with scientific research today.

One of the main points Harris argued was that today conducting experiments is so expensive that results are not always the most accurate. An example he gives to prove this is a new drug experiment done with mice. He explained how each experiment is over \$100,000 per mouse, so the way researchers get around the cost is by only the study on 6-10 mice. The cost of this is still between \$600,000 and \$1,000,000 but it is a lot less than what it would've been to test the drug on the correct amount of mice they were supposed to be using. Researchers will call this study "a pilot" in hopes that if they were to test the drug on a larger group of mice or humans, the results would still be the same. This loophole is very risky, but with limited funds for research what else are scientists supposed to do?

Between 1998 and 2003 funding came in almost doubling from a little over \$20 billion to \$40 billion. However, this number is not consistent. Funding has fluctuated up and down over the past 14 years. A big problem today is the inflation the biomedical research and development fields face. This can also be referred to as BRDPI. The inflation occurs for a multitude of reasons including, bad ingredients, funding pressures, and statistical errors. These causes can be prevented by validating ingredients, transparency, better training, and easing the financial crunch.

There is definitely a long way to go until the finances in scientific research is fixed, but hopefully in the future between collaboration with different scientists things will get better soon.

