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How can we make science more provable?

The University of Illinois had a visitor by the name Richard Harris, author of Rigor Mortis, who gave an insightful speech on how the focus in the science research field should be to reproduce results from old or new studies and experiments.

Richard Harris is an award winning journalist who has been honored three times by the American Association for the advancement of science. He served on the board of the council for advancement in science writing.

During his speech "Science Friction: What's Slowing Progress in Research" Harris gave students and community members insight on why science should focus on reproducibility.

One ongoing issue Mr. Harris discussed was how reproducibility is declining in the science field.

This is creating an issue for scientists because "in science you want to be able to produce things because that's how you know that they're real."

One of his key points was that students should be focused on the question of "How can we make science more provable?"

An experiment should not be done once. Scientists should be spending more time trying to replicate the same results they got initially.

This could change science as we know it. With replicated results we can be sure of many things. Years later when the experiment is replicated, there should be similar outcomes unlike the outcome of a replicated psychology experiment Mr. Harris talked about in his speech. He mentioned that many psychology studies have been redone recently and most of them could not be replicated in results.

With all the information given, this drew in the audience and provoked their questions at the end of the speech. Once Harris was open for questions, the audience asked about student research, funding issues for students, and climate change (which was his initial research before becoming a part of NPR).

One things for sure: Harris gave students and community members insight on scientific research and how it can be improved. This is important for students to know so the focus can be on how to reproduce results.

How will this be implemented by students on campus?