

Richard Harris, a biomedical research journalist for NPR, came to the University of Illinois to discuss his new book *Rigor Mortis*. This book goes into depth about the sloppy use of funding by the biomedical research industry. Harris sees that progress has slowed and research efficiency is decreasing.

This slowed progress means that “science creates worthless cures, crushes hopes, and wastes billions.”

In 2003 however, there started to be a lack of funding in scientific research due to the lack of reproducibility. Harris talks about the importance of reproducibility is that “you want to be able to reproduce things, because that’s how you know it’s real.”

There are countless studies that are put out that insist that it is going to lead to a cure, however less than half of these studies are even found to be true. Billions of dollars are wasted every year on attempts at finding cures.

Harris touches on the fact that many scientists base their hypothesis on their data, even though that’s not the way it is supposed to go. “The idea is that you run the experiment to see if hypothesis is supported by the data you collected.”

Harris believes there are ways to better these attempts, such as validating ingredients and better training of scientists. Society depends on the biomedical field to help find cures to different diseases and right now they are failing.