

# Rejecting and resisting new ideas in science

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<http://www.uah.es/otrosweb/jmc>

## The problem

The history of science shows too many important discoveries that were initially resisted or ignored by fellow scientists

Some important discoveries were "premature" and were often rejected and deemed impractical for quite some time after their initial introduction

## Common patterns of resistance to scientific discovery

papers are rejected

fellow scientists ignore discoveries

articles are not cited

commentaries are written against the new finding or the new discovery

“delayed recognition” phenomenon (few citations and it may not be cited at all for years. Next, the scientific community begins to recognise the value of the article and citations start to rise)

## Previous work

We used a systematic approach to study the resistance to new discoveries

Essays on highly cited papers in order to identify papers which had difficulties in getting produced or published (available in <http://www.uah.es/otrosweb/jmc> )

Survey of a sample of scientists who are authors of highly cited or very influential papers

Strategies used for scientists who challenge dominant paradigms in Physics

## **Nobel Laureates**

27 Nobel Laureates encountered resistance on part of scientific community towards their discoveries

36 Nobel Laureates encountered resistance on part of scientific journal editors or referees to manuscripts that dealt with discoveries that on later date would assure them the Nobel Prize

## How to avoid the above problems?

Metajournal

Rejected but available

## Rejected but available

*For every issue of a journal to devote a page to a list of authors and manuscript titles that have been recently rejected plus a full URL address in the journal web page from which the rejected manuscript can be downloaded [Campanario and Martin, 2003]*

Readers interested in these manuscripts could download them and judge at their own risk

These papers would be labelled as “Rejected but available”

# Metajournal

In each discipline

Authors would submit an abstract to this facility

Editors and referees ("journal scouts") would routinely scan the Metajournal to locate good manuscripts

Journal scouts would contact authors about publishing the manuscripts