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Did you know?

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Section 6: Did You Know?

that a mentor citation record can influence grant application success?

A recent study has found a positive correlation between female postdoctoral fellows' grant application success and the citation records (citations and h-index) of their mentor. "Females whose mentor's h-index was in the top quartile were nearly 3 times as likely to receive a major grant as those whose mentors were in the bottom quartile"¹. Interestingly, the correlation did not apply to male postdoctoral fellows.

The author interpreted these findings as a sign that potential residual sexual discrimination can be defeated by association with a prestigious mentor, but still acknowledged that this would benefit from further analysis.

Useful links:

1. Levitt, D.G. (2010) Careers of an elite cohort of U.S. basic life science postdoctoral fellows and the influence of their mentor's citation record. *BMC Medical Education* 10:80.