

## Editorial

# Reformulating the principles of Hippocrates

**Marc Girard, MSc, MD**

1 bd de la République

78000-Versailles

France

Phone: +33 (0)1 39 67 01 10 Fax: +33 (0)1 39 67 01 11

Email: agosgirard@free.fr

Whereas reproducibility is a crucial criterion of scientific method, modern medicine is increasingly dependent on clinical trials or epidemiological investigations which, by their very nature and cost defy this criterion: you cannot reproduce a clinical trial based upon specific moments in the life of a selected population, and it is most often impossible for independent researchers to do long-term follow-up studies of epidemiological investigations that involve thousands of people.

In addition, and contrary to the “hard” data in physics, chemistry or biology, data in clinical research is “soft”: as objective as data may be, the meaning of the results are dependent upon the experts that interpret them.

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