

Pathological Physics is alive and well

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The name pathological science was applied by the Nobel Prize winning chemist Irving Langmuir to describe the studies in which scientists have been persuaded to support erroneous ideas through wishful thinking – the science of ‘things that aren’t so’. In this talk, after reviewing some classical examples of pathological physics, I will describe, from first hand involvement, two very recent examples of the phenomenon – the ‘hafnium bomb’ and ‘vanishing nuclear waste’. Some broad conclusions regarding responsibility in scientific studies will be drawn.