

If you look at my Bluesky posts that link to my articles, you'll see that I frequently select a provocative line to attract readers to the story itself. If you read more into it than that, you're making a mistake—and it misrepresents what I think.

Analyze this with facts, not one's sense of what is a "reasonable way to read." What our article said was:

Concerns about subaward changes grew earlier this week, with *Nature* reporting on an apparent draft of the policy on Wednesday, before it was finalized. NIH's new director, Jayanta "Jay" Bhattacharya, **dismissed the report as "rumors" in an interview with *Science* on Thursday morning**, hours before he announced the new policy.

As I said, he was dodging the meat of her question with an issue he had with the Nature article about sub award vs. all foreign collaborations. As the US-based researchers explain in my article, they view the cutting of sub awards as far more significant than what Battacharya dismisses as "rumors" and describes as a "policy on tracking sub awards." Those researchers, as well as recipients of sub awards, stress that policies already track sub awards. So there's a substantive at stake. She's not asking about "all foreign collaborations." That's his issue, and his beef with Nature. And he well could have discussed the potential impact of the policy change on foreign collaborations, but he dodged that by changing the subject. What Jocelyn wanted to discuss was an expected policy change that indeed happened a few hours later...and he basically attacked her instead of engaging in a serious discussion about a serious issue.

You raised Thacker's assertions that I have a "rather tattered history of ethics"—strong accusations about a journalist--and I addressed that at length. I'm disappointed that you simply say "regardless of Thacker's agenda," which bleeds into his assertion that I was implied Bhattacharya was a liar.

Why not address what you raised and my response? Thacker is an unreliable narrator. I have provided strong evidence.

Jon