

## Using personality types to predict cancer? Why was this 30-year-old case of 'probable scientific fraud' never investigated?

The Journal of Health Psychology has just published an extraordinary pair of papers that call for a new inquiry into a 30-year old case of probable scientific fraud.

According to Anthony J. Pelosi, author of [the main paper](#), the case was "one of the worst scientific scandals of all time" and yet has never been formally investigated.

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The scandal in question is one I had never heard of before, but the facts are jaw-dropping. Beginning in 1980, a Dr [Ronald Grossarth-Maticek](#) reported that he had discovered a cancer-prone 'emotionally repressed' personality. Someone with this personality type was, he claimed, at very high risk of later developing cancer.

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Here's one of the many remarkably strong effects found in Grossarth-Maticek's data, as discussed by Fox (1991):

**Table 1. Grossarth-Maticek's Classification Matrix**

Actual Outcome	Predicted Group			
	No Diagnosis	Cancer	Internal Diseases	
No Diagnosis	763	6	28	797
Cancer	0	159	46	205
Internal Diseases	7	7	337	351
Sum	770	172	411	1,353

*Note:* From "Psychosocial Predictors of Cancer and Internal Diseases" by R. Grossarth-Maticek, 1980, *Psychotherapy and Psychosomatics*, 33, p. 125. Copyright 1980 by Karger, Basel. Adapted by permission.

This table represents the most important discovery in medical science since penicillin... if it were true. According to these data, Dr. Grossarth-Maticek was able to predict, with virtually perfect certainty, who would get cancer in the next 10 years.

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The controversy rumbled on for a few years but by the late 1990s, it had petered out, no formal investigation ever having taking place. Eysenck died in 1997. Pelosi calls for an investigation to happen now – better late than never.

**Read full, original post:** [The Cancer Personality Scandal \(Part 1\)](#)