Reporting on Health: A Media Perspective.

Joe Palca
How reporters start their day at work...

Today I am an expert in:

- Politics
- Economy
- Car repair
- Health care
- Television
- Aerospace
- Bioengineering
- Mem's
- Foreign affairs
- County fairs
- Oil
- Vinegar
- Sports
- Stocks
- Bondage
- Oboe
- Explosives
- Computers
- Plumbing
- Food
- Septic tanks
- Fusion
- Liposuction
- Cartoons
- World peace
Today's Random Medical News

According to a report released today...

Can cause:
- Hypothermia
- Depression
- Migraines

In:
- Two-income families
- Men 25-40
- Obesity smokers
- Arthritis sufferers
- 7 out of 10 women
- Snails
- Rats

Smoking
- Exercise
- Fatty foods
- Stress
- Coffee
- Terminal
- Pancake
- Red wine
The number of medical studies has increased dramatically

300% increase over 25 years

SOURCE: Bastian, PLoS Medicine
Everything we eat both causes and prevents cancer

○ = One medical study

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Food</th>
<th>Protects against cancer</th>
<th>Causes cancer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wine</td>
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<td>Tomatoes</td>
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<td>Tea</td>
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<td>Milk</td>
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<td>Eggs</td>
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<td>Corn</td>
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<td>Coffee</td>
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<td>Butter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beef</td>
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SOURCE: Schoenfeld and Ioannidis, *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*
Trends in Atmospheric CO₂

Carbon Dioxide Level from the Law Dome Ice Cores
Editing humanity
The prospect of genetic enhancement

- High IQ
- No baldness
- Perfect pitch
- Sprinter
- Low risk of Alzheimer’s, breast cancer and strokes
- 20/20 vision
And I would like to think that if somebody does a test on me or my genes, that that's mine. (Applause.) But that's not always how we define these issues, right? So there’s some legal issues involved.

Barak Obama, February 25, 2016
Who owns your genetic data? Obama says you do

Many researchers and the universities and medical centers that back them regard genetic material and the results from tests they conduct on it as their intellectual property and are reluctant to share it.

By JULIE HIRSCHFELD DAVIS
The New York Times

WASHINGTON — President Obama on Thursday waded into the complex and high-stakes debate over whether patients own their genetic information, saying he believes his tissues and any discoveries that stem from his DNA belong to him.

“I would like to think that if somebody does a test on me or my genes, that’s mine, but that’s not always how we define these issues,” Obama said during a White House forum on a major biomedical research initiative he began last year.

The president said the success of his Precision Medicine
Many Dislike Health Care System, But Are Pleased With Their Own Care

In an NPR poll, 80 percent of respondents said they get good or excellent care. But 42 percent rate the health care system in their state as fair or poor. The perception of quality of care varies according to income.