A New Kind of Computer

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The article I read about was from the ScienceNews online source. The title of the webpage is called: This body-on-a-chip mimics how organs and cancer cells react to drugs. This article concluded that a new kind of chip has been developed to help determine which drugs are best suited for humans in various diseases and cancers. Their primary source and research come from another research company called Science Translational Medicine. The research that they conducted was a follow up on prior organ on a chip that they did an article on.

This new technology can be very impactful and beneficial to society in our ever-going efforts on treating people and finding new cures to diseases. As the article states, the body-on-a-chip can help us find helpful and harmful effects on drugs without having a test subject (Temming, 2019). This may even help people with already existing drugs on the market. You don't know if you're allergic to something unless you're either tested for it or experience an allergic reaction to it. Patients being prescribed drugs they've never used before don't know if they're allergic to it or not. This new chip, with a prick of the finger, may help determine which drugs are best for which people.

Although the article makes no indication of the writer or publisher being affiliated with the company or manufacturer of the body on a chip, one can very well determine that it is quite possible that there may be some endorsement occurring between the two parties. If this is the case, their conclusions of this chip being revolutionary in the pharmaceutical world could all be for promotion. Looking at the picture of the body on a chip included in the article, it appears that this chip is simply two panes of glass or plastic held together by screws with channels carved out of them. The article also does not list any other scientists with oppositions or support. It is hard to determine whether or not there is any affiliation occurring as the article does not list any prices of this simple unit or whether it is currently in the market or still in development.

Before reading this article, I had prior knowledge of liquid chips which the body on a chip utilizes. Although my knowledge was using these liquid chips as ways to process data and information instead of using them to find results of medication effects in the body. I chose this article because of my prior research into liquid chips and actually seeing a company use these for biological uses was very intriguing to me. My only complaint in this article is that the author was vague in the history of this chip. The way the article read seem to be pointed towards an audience that had prior knowledge of this chip and its company. For example, the first paragraph of the article talks about how this new chip is unlike the old one because it contains five chambers to house different cells types (Temming, 2019). The author failed to provide insight and details into the prior chip or its history.

References

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