

Why the Nobel Prize Takes Decades

The delay between discovery and recognition reveals hidden truths about innovation in medicine.

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17 years

Time to Prove Inherited Cancer Link

Mary-Claire King spent 17 years proving breast cancer could be hereditary.

This period reflects the immense challenge of validating a paradigm-shifting discovery in genetics. The scientific community required rigorous proof before accepting that BRCA1 and BRCA2 mutations could dramatically increase cancer risk.

01

Impact Outpaces Recognition

King's discovery saved hundreds of thousands of lives, yet it took 17 years to gain full scientific validation. This delay underscores a critical truth: in AI-driven healthcare, real-world impact often precedes institutional acknowledgment. The most transformative innovations may not be recognized immediately — not because they're less valuable, but because their full significance unfolds over time.



02

The Human Cost of Delay

While the scientific community debated, women faced preventable deaths. The 17-year gap between hypothesis and acceptance highlights a systemic risk in healthcare innovation: the cost of delayed validation is measured in lives. For AI in healthcare, this means that even if a model shows early promise, its deployment must not wait for perfect consensus — especially when lives are at stake.



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