

EMPOWERMENT KNOWLEDE IS POWER

Consumers as part of the
research cycle: an essential
prerequisite for knowledge
translation

Lisa Harvey

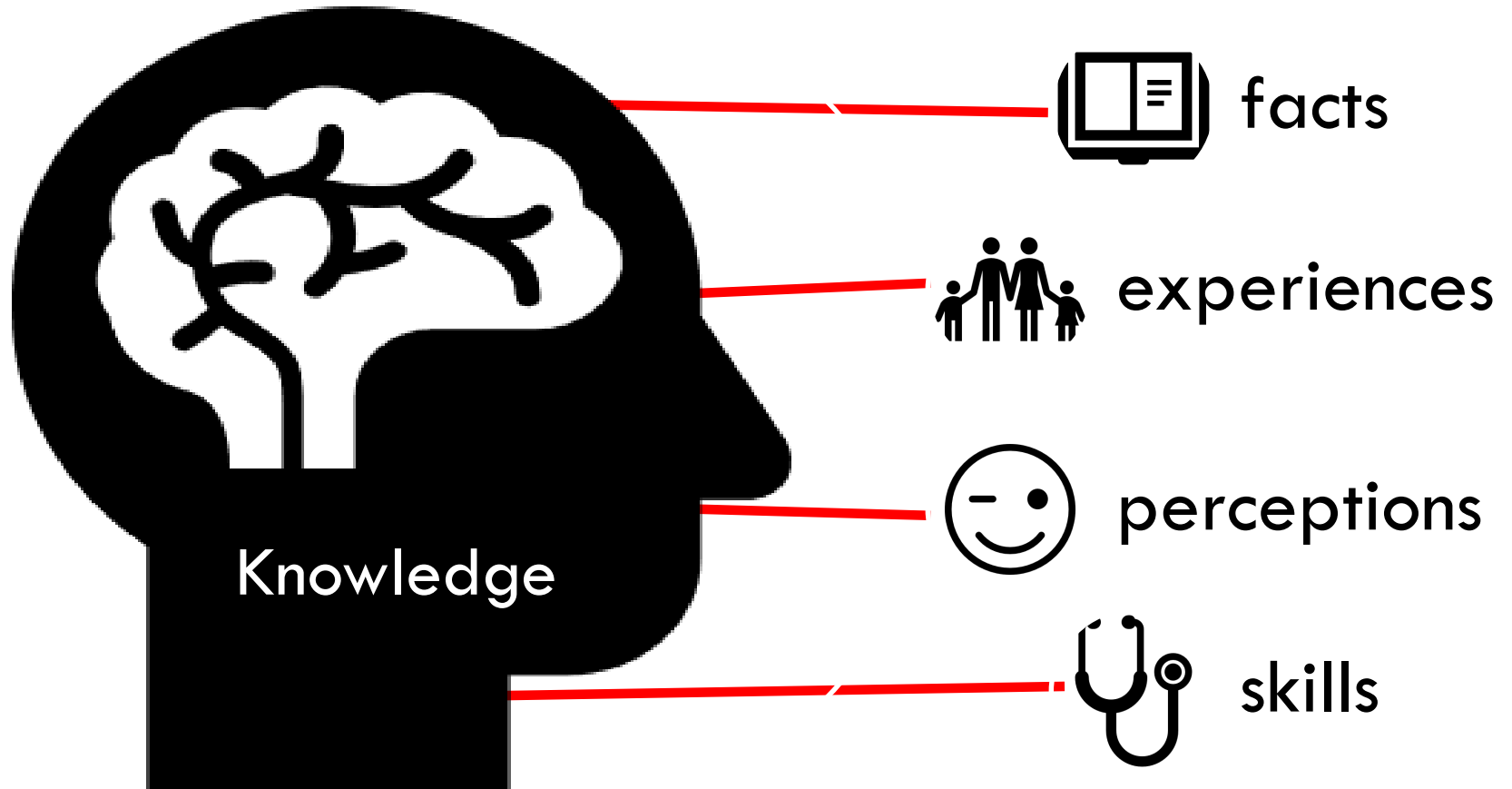
Professor, Sydney School of Medicine
University of Sydney
Australia



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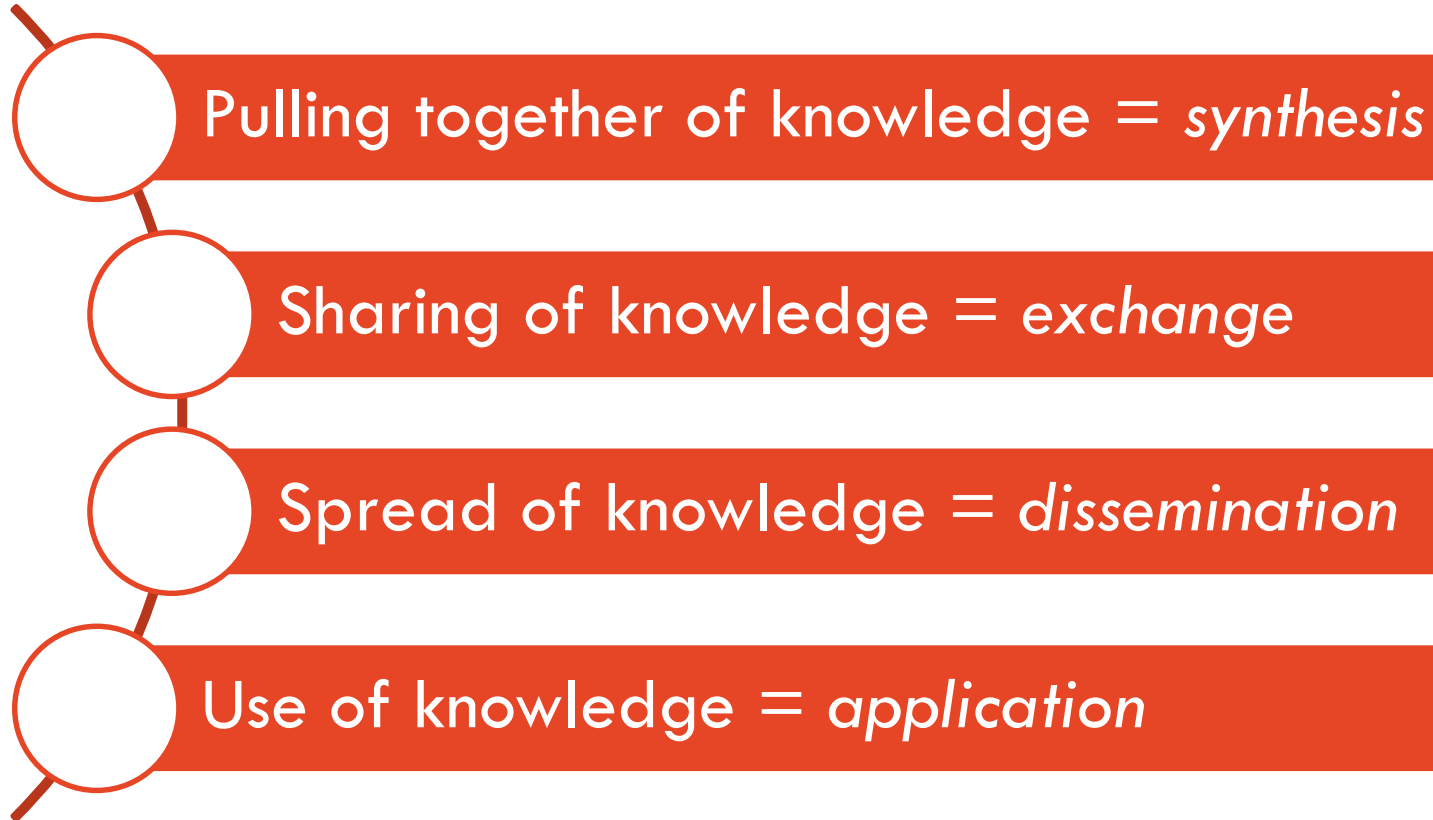


What is knowledge?



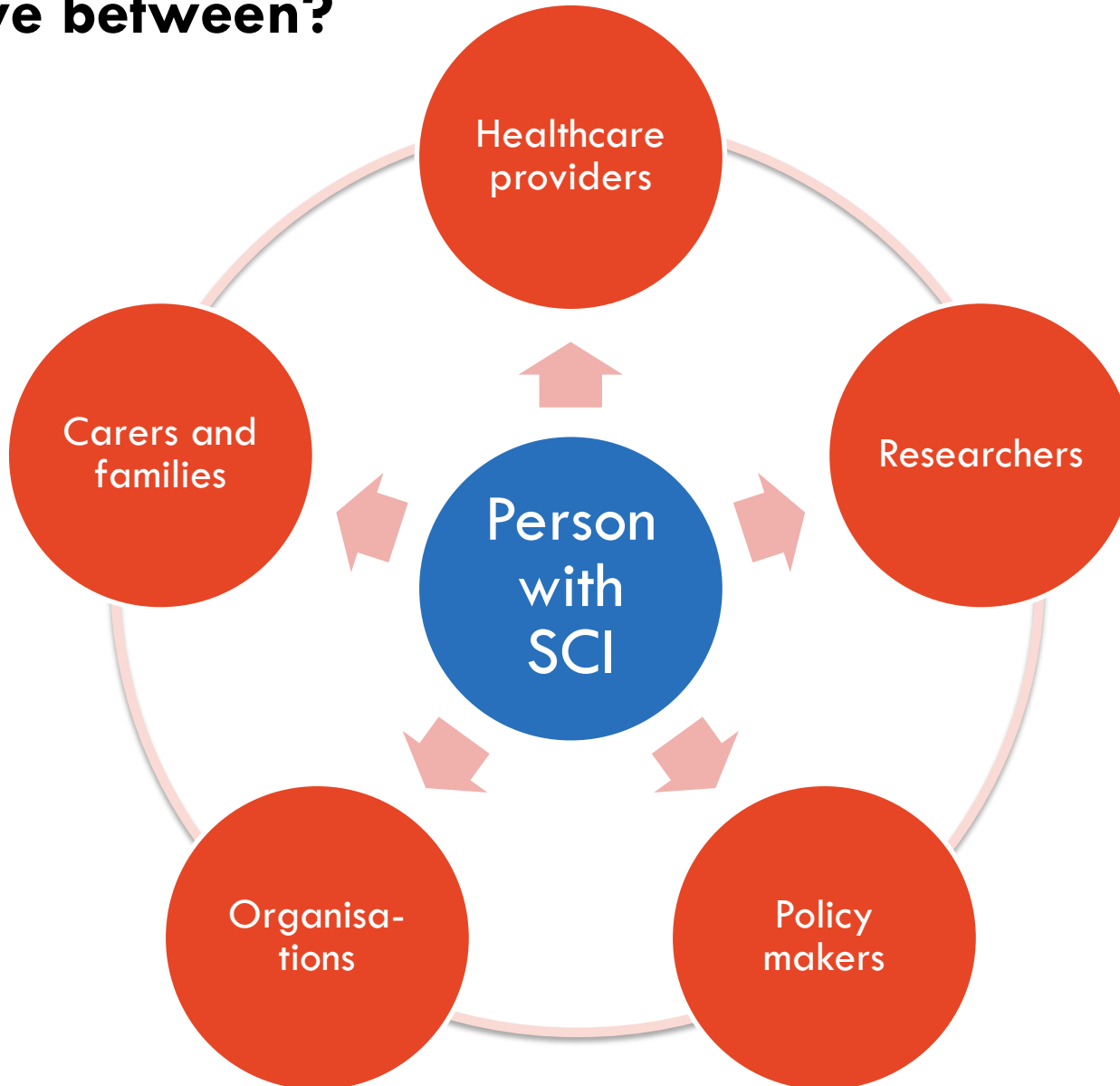
What is knowledge translation?

P
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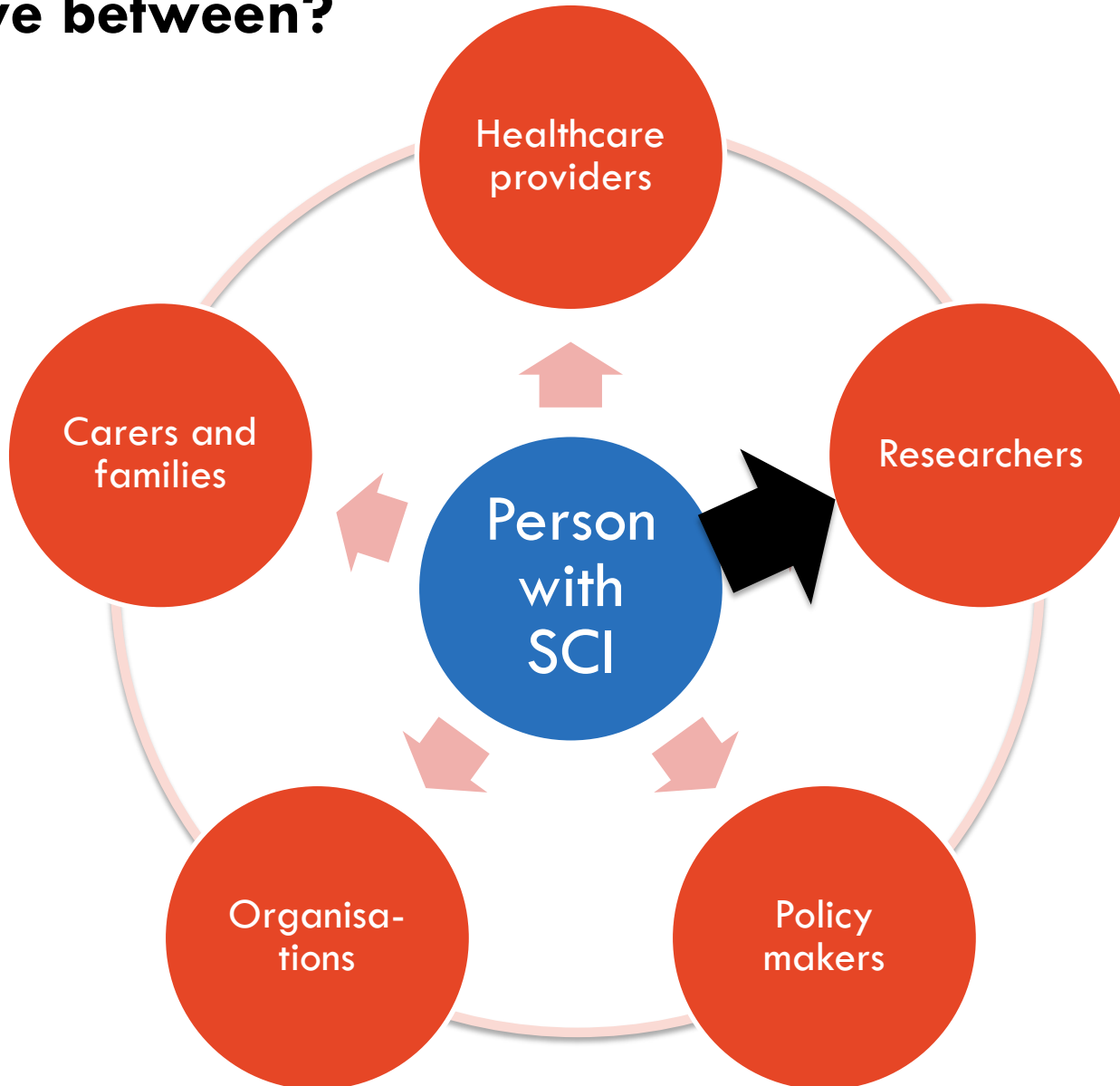


Getting the **right** information, to the **right** people, at the **right** time, and in a format they can use, so as to influence healthcare

Who does the knowledge need to move between?



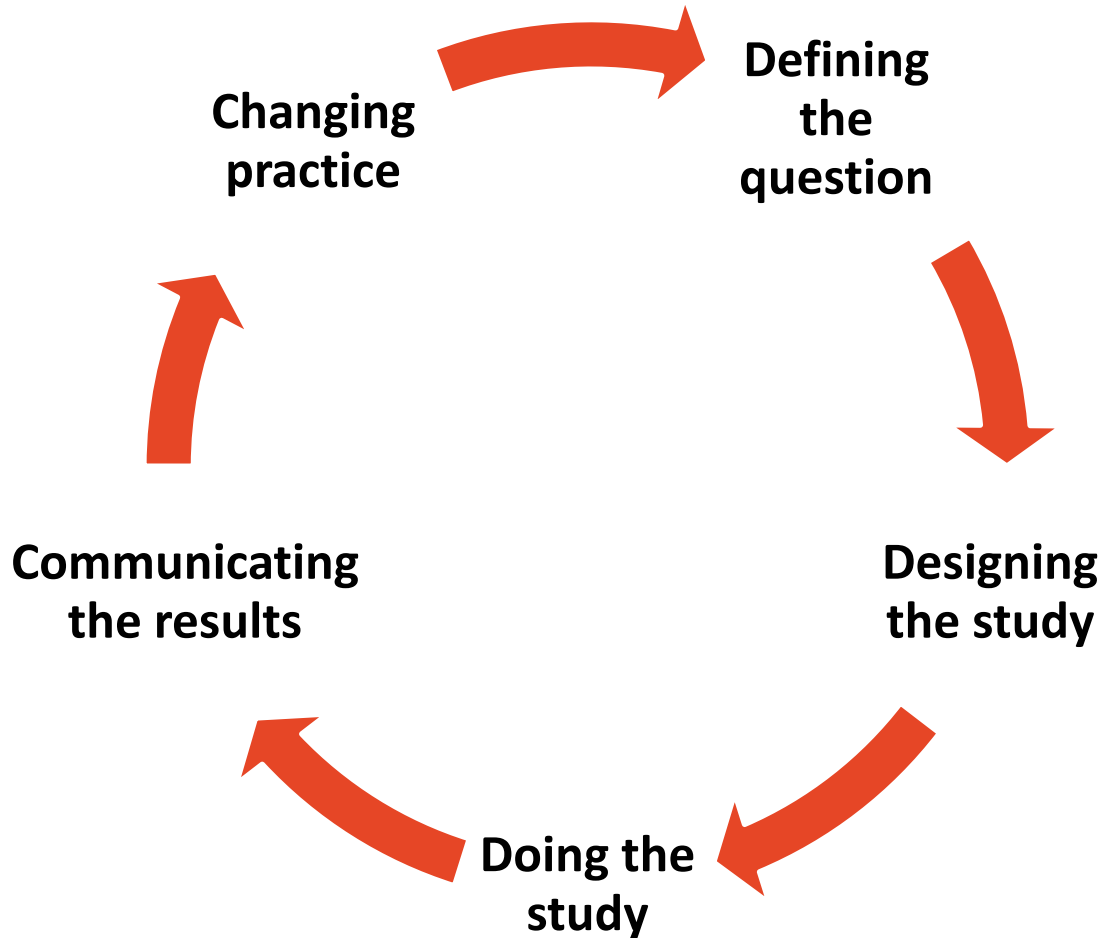
Who does the knowledge need to move between?



We have a knowledge translation problem

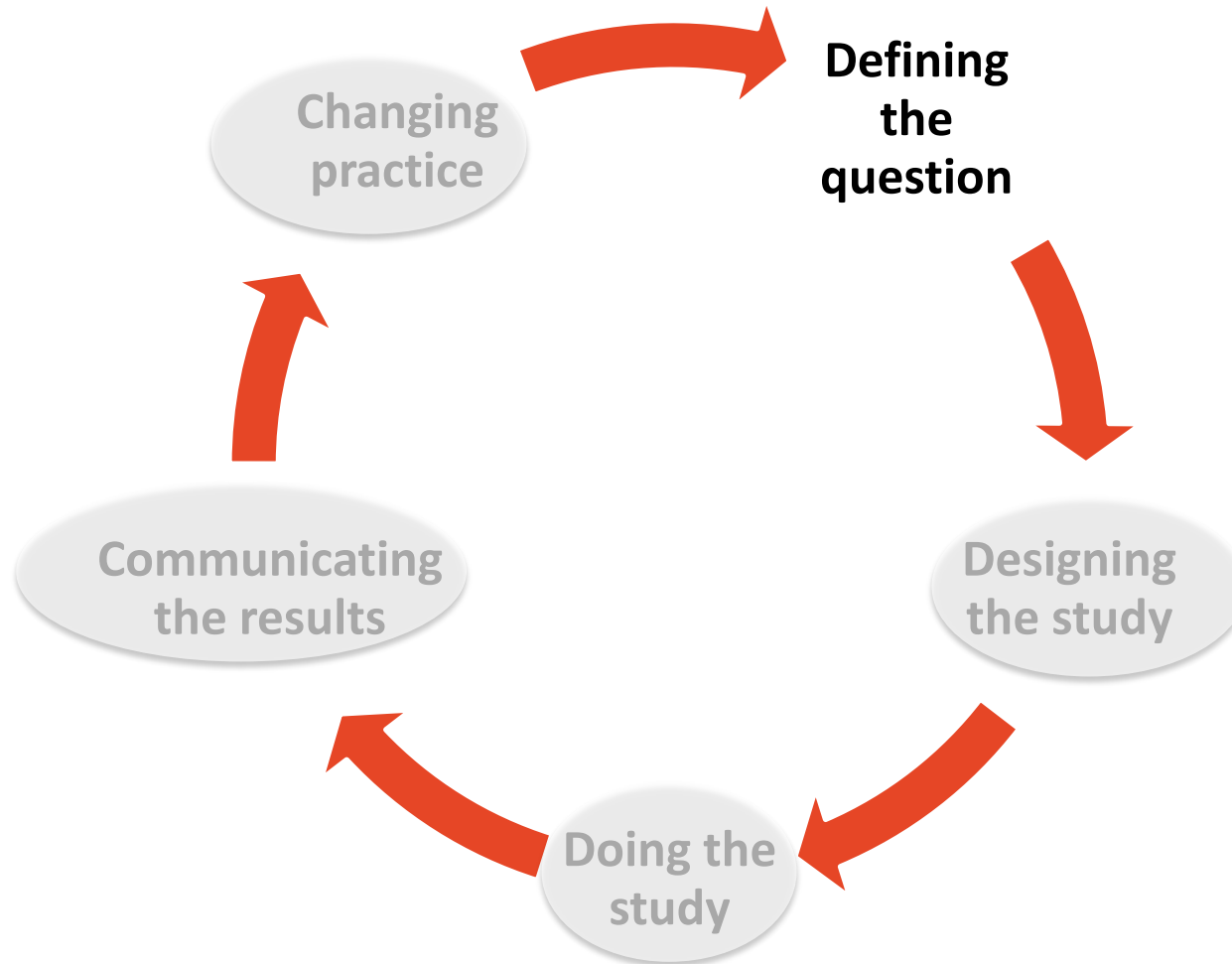


The gap occurs at all steps of the cycle



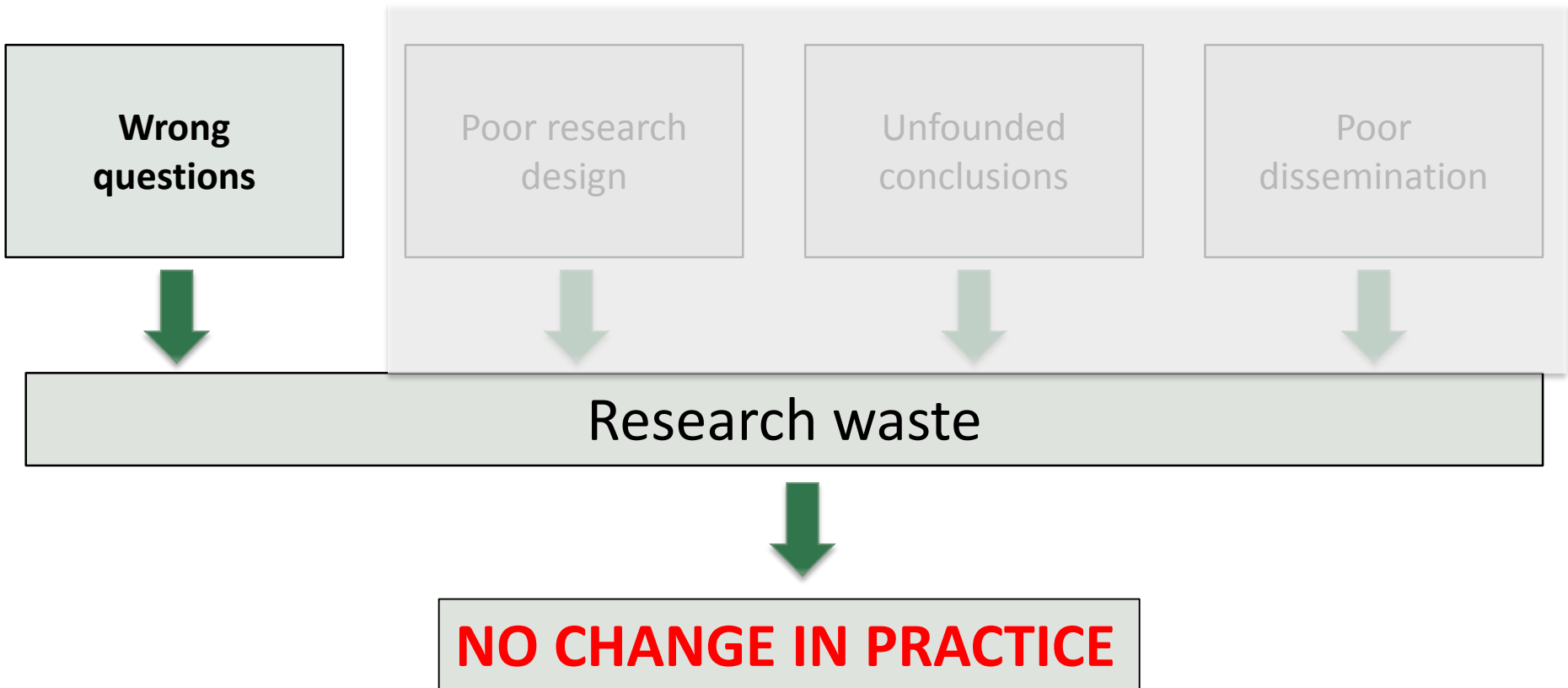
Consumers need to be involved in all steps

The gap occurs at all steps of the cycle



Chalmers & Glasziou Lancet 2009; 374: 86–89

85% of research is wasted, usually because it asks the wrong questions, or does not change practice.





Priority Setting Partnerships



- Home
- About the JLA
- The PSPs
- Top 10s
- JLA Guidebook
- News and Publications
- Making a difference
- Current surveys

 You are in: [Home](#)
[translate page](#) ▼

The James Lind Alliance

The [James Lind Alliance \(JLA\)](#) is a non-profit making initiative established in 2004. It brings patients, carers and clinicians together in [Priority Setting Partnerships \(PSPs\)](#) to identify and prioritise the [Top 10 unanswered questions](#) or evidence uncertainties that they agree are the most important.

The aim of this is to make sure that health research funders are aware of the issues that matter most to the people who need to use the research in their everyday lives.



The PSPs

Find out about the areas in which Priority Setting Partnerships identify the uncertainties which really matter.



Top 10s

See the top priorities for future research, agreed by patients, carers and health professionals working with



The JLA Guidebook

Read a step-by-step guide to the processes involved in a Priority Setting Partnership.

What's new.....

The NIHR has a new visual identity to better reflect the breadth of its work. To find out more, please visit the [NIHR website](#).

Read an [update from the Heart Surgery PSP](#) about their ways of communicating with the patients, carers and clinicians they need to hear from.

Mailing list

Sign up to our newsletter and stay up to date on the latest news from the JLA

[Sign up](#)

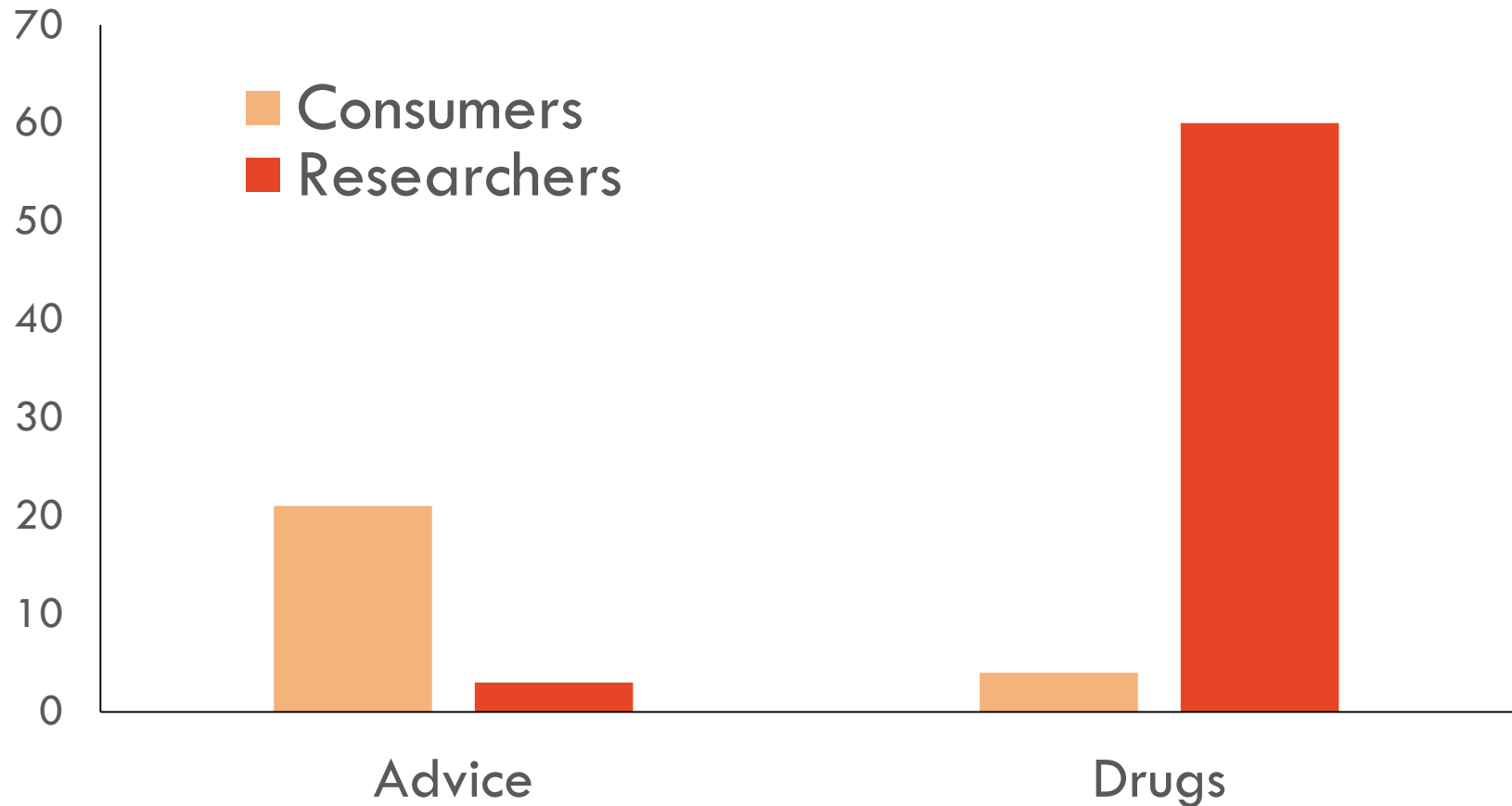
JLA on Twitter

Tweets by [@LindAlliance](#)



Research on the effects of treatments often overlooks the shared interests of patients, carers and clinicians. As a result, questions that they all consider important are not addressed and many areas of potentially important research are therefore neglected.

Mismatch between consumers' and researchers' priorities



Research – consumers' perspectives



Citations = 798

JOURNAL OF NEUROTRAUMA
Volume 21, Number 10, 2004
© Mary Ann Liebert, Inc.
Pp. 1371–1383

Targeting Recovery: Priorities of the Spinal Cord-Injured Population

KIM D. ANDERSON

ABSTRACT

In the United States alone, there are more than 200,000 individuals living with a chronic spinal cord injury (SCI). Healthcare for these individuals creates a significant economic burden for the country, not to mention the physiological, psychological, and social suffering these people endure everyday. Regaining partial function can lead to greater independence, thereby improving quality of life. To ascertain what functions are most important to the SCI population, in regard to enhancing quality of life, a novel survey was performed in which subjects were asked to rank seven functions in order of importance to their quality of life. The survey was distributed via email, postal mail, the internet, interview, and word of mouth to the SCI community at large. A total of 681 responses were completed. Regaining arm and hand function was most important to quadriplegics, while regaining sexual function was the highest priority for paraplegics. Improving bladder and bowel function was of shared importance to both injury groups. A longitudinal analysis revealed only slight differences between individuals injured <3 years compared to those injured >3 years. The majority of participants indicated that exercise was important to functional recovery, yet more than half either did not have access to exercise or did not have access to a trained therapist to oversee that exercise. In order to improve the relevance of research in this area, the concerns of the SCI population must be better known and taken into account. This approach is consistent with and emphasized by the new NIH roadmap to discovery.

Key words: bladder, bowel, and sexual dysfunction; consumer preferences; quality of life; spinal cord injury

OPEN

Spinal Cord (2016) 54, 341–346

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www.nature.com/sc

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Top ten research priorities for spinal cord injury: the methodology and results of a British priority setting partnership

JJ van Middendorp^{1,2,3}, HC Allison^{1,2}, S Ahuja⁴, D Bracher⁵, C Dyson⁵, J Fairbank⁶, A Gall⁷, A Glover⁸, L Gray⁹, W El Masri¹⁰, A Uttridge¹¹ and K Cowan¹²

Study design: This is a mixed-method consensus development project.

Objectives: The objective of this study was to identify a top ten list of priorities for future research into spinal cord injury (SCI).

Setting: The British Spinal Cord Injury Priority Setting Partnership was established in 2013 and completed in 2014. Stakeholders included consumer organisations, healthcare professional societies and caregivers.

Methods: This partnership involved the following four key stages: (i) gathering of research questions, (ii) checking of existing research evidence, (iii) interim prioritisation and (iv) a final consensus meeting to reach agreement on the top ten research priorities. Adult

Top 5

- Physiotherapy
- Stem cell therapy
- Care packages in the community
- Bladder management
- Early mobilisation versus bedrest

31 other studies that have looked are research priorities.

Some organisations are setting research strategies in SCI



The image shows two overlapping website screenshots. The top screenshot is from the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation website. It features a navigation bar with links for 'Living with Paralysis', 'Get Support', 'Get Involved', 'Research', 'Events', 'Blog', 'Community', 'About Us', and 'Donate'. A 'Quick Links' sidebar lists 'Our rehabilitation network', 'Our clinical trials network', 'Our approach to research', and 'Consortium laboratories'. The main content area has a yellow background with the heading 'Research' and text about uniting brightest minds to develop real-world treatments for spinal cord injury.

The bottom screenshot is from the Wings for Life website. It features a navigation bar with links for 'SPINAL CORD INJURY', 'ABOUT US', 'RESEARCH', 'HOW YOU CAN HELP', 'SUPPORTERS', and 'LATEST'. The main content area has a dark background with the heading '[THE BIG IDEA]' and text about a groundbreaking campaign to fund research in epidural stimulation. A quote from Nicholas Langmann from Austria is displayed: "It can happen to anyone."



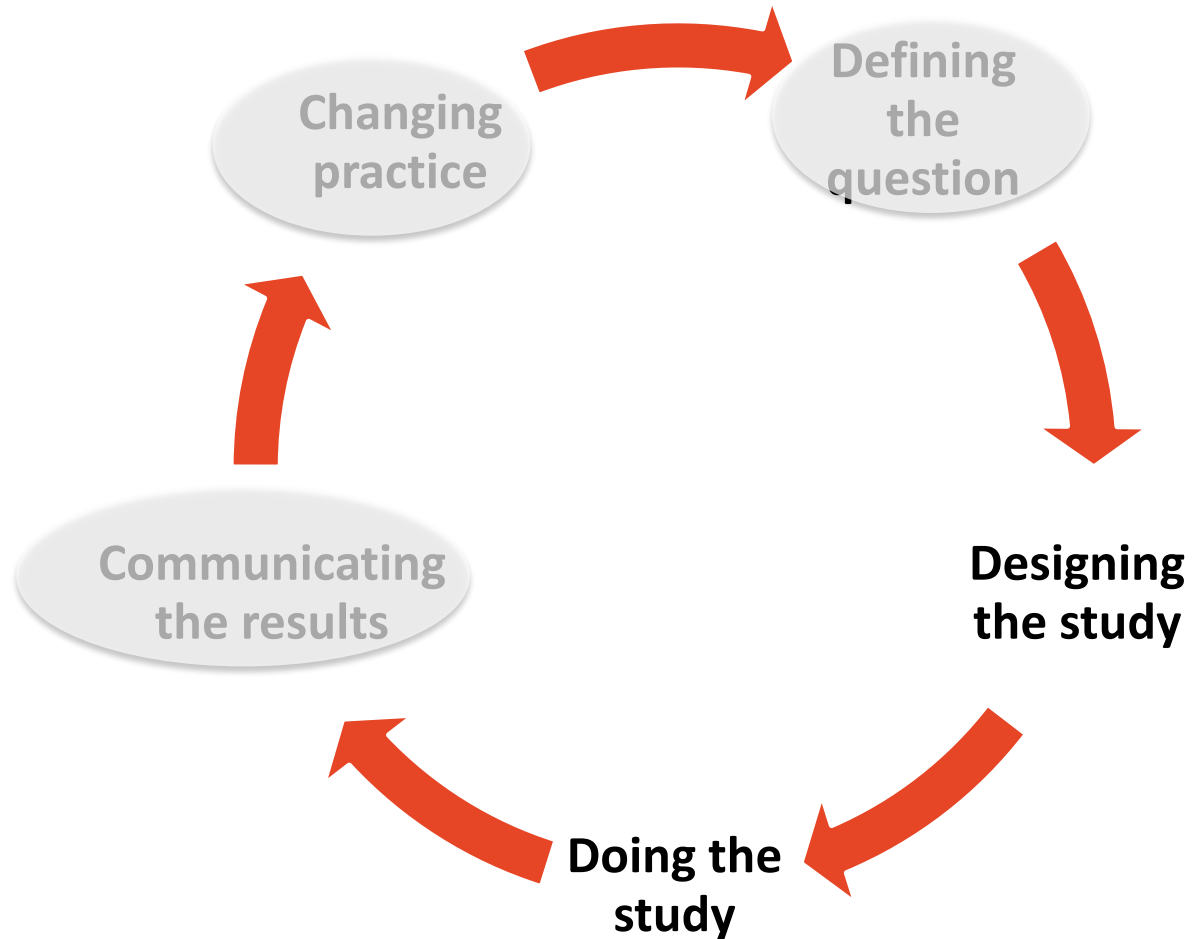
+



Professional and consumer societies need to work together to set research strategy



The gap occurs at all steps of the cycle



Acknowledgement worldwide of importance of including consumers



The **active** involvement of consumersbenefits the quality and direction of research.

Consumer involvement is about research **being carried out** with or by consumers rather than to, about or for them.

Tokenism – include one person with SCI in the research team



Who will researchers tend to include?

- Someone who mirrors themselves
- Someone who is very obliging
- Someone who has the same research priorities as themselves



Who should researchers include?

- Someone who is very different to themselves
- Someone who is willing to express contrary views
- Someone who appreciates the research priorities of all

Researchers often expect too much from participants



Researchers need the
consumer perspective

Is the size of the treatment effect worth it?

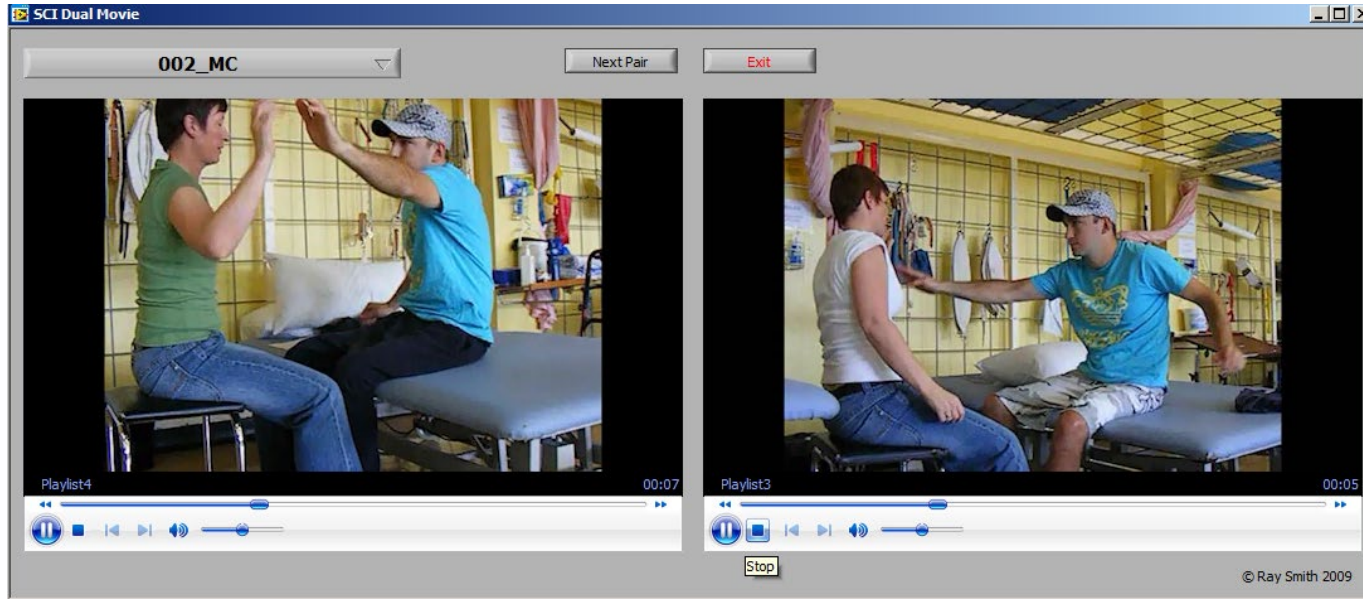


Treatments can **NOT** be recommended on the basis of p values

Treatments must be recommended on the basis of the size of the treatment effect after considering:

- Time
- Cost
- Effort
- Potential for harm

Consumers as assessors of change

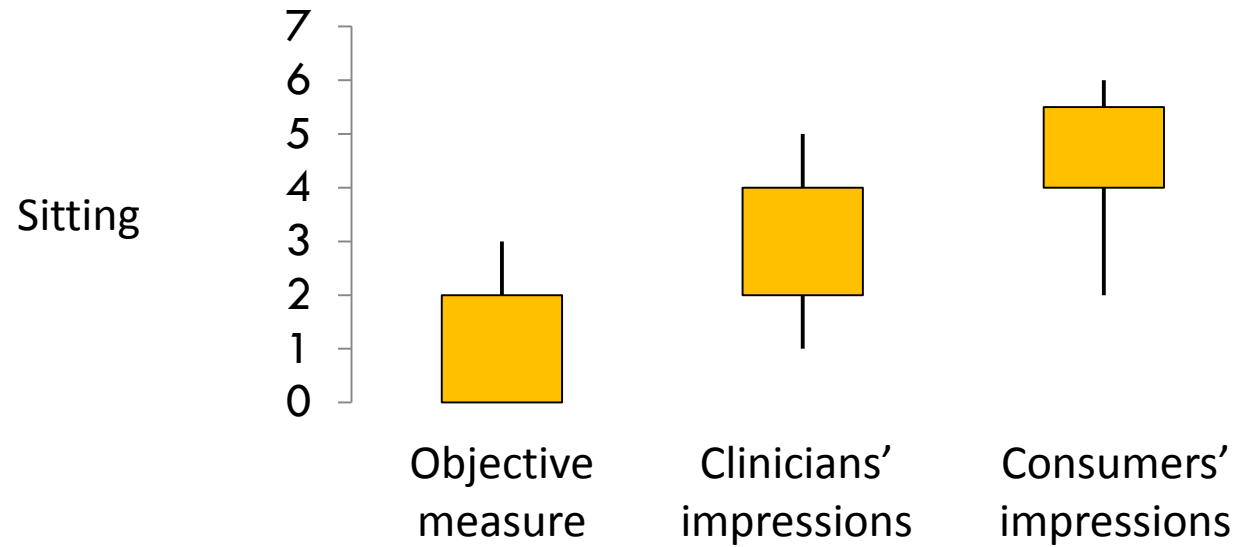


30 minutes training every day for 8 weeks.

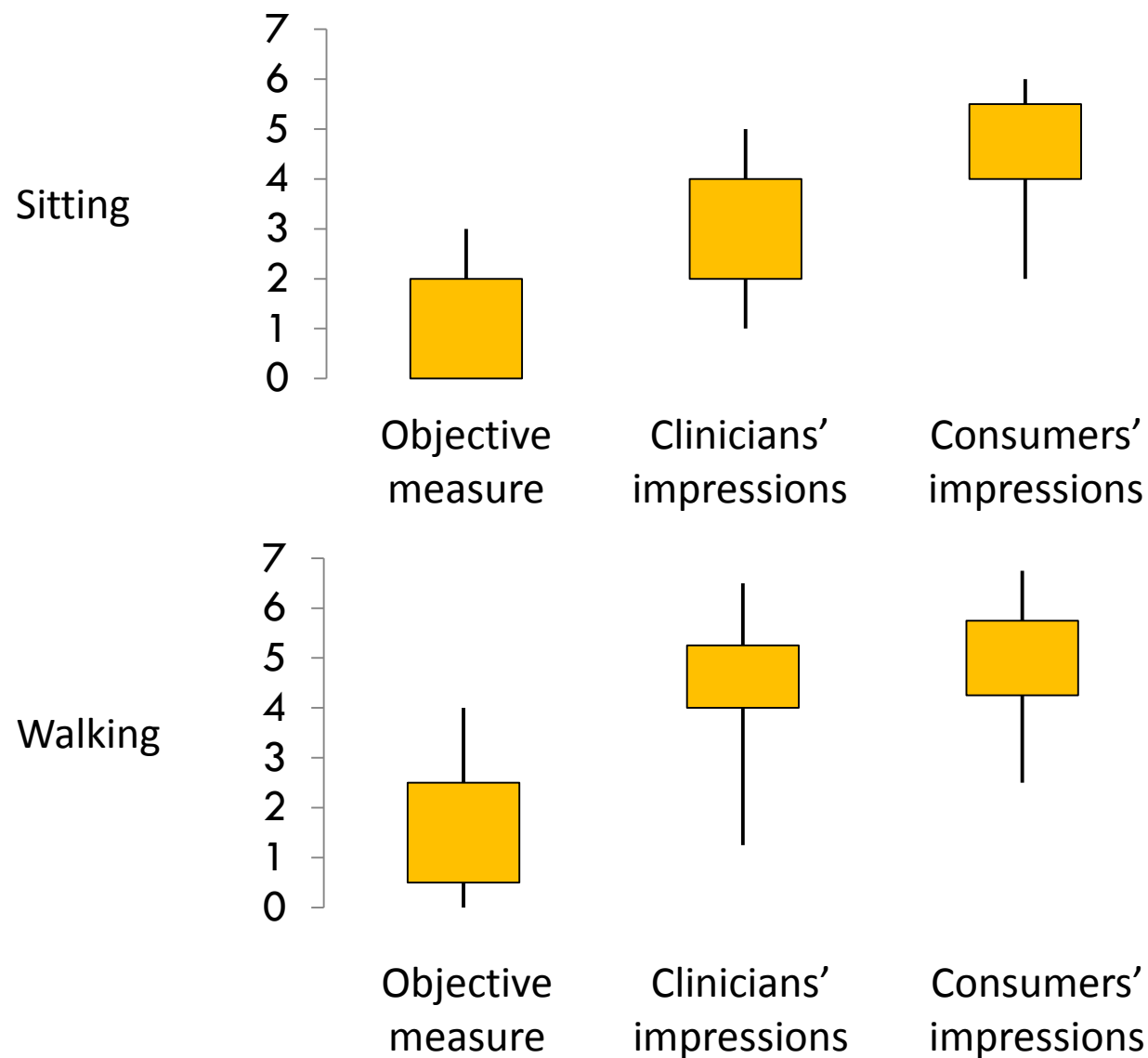
Rate any change?

-7	A very great deal worse
-6	
-5	
-4	
-3	
-2	
-1	
0	No change
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	A very great deal better

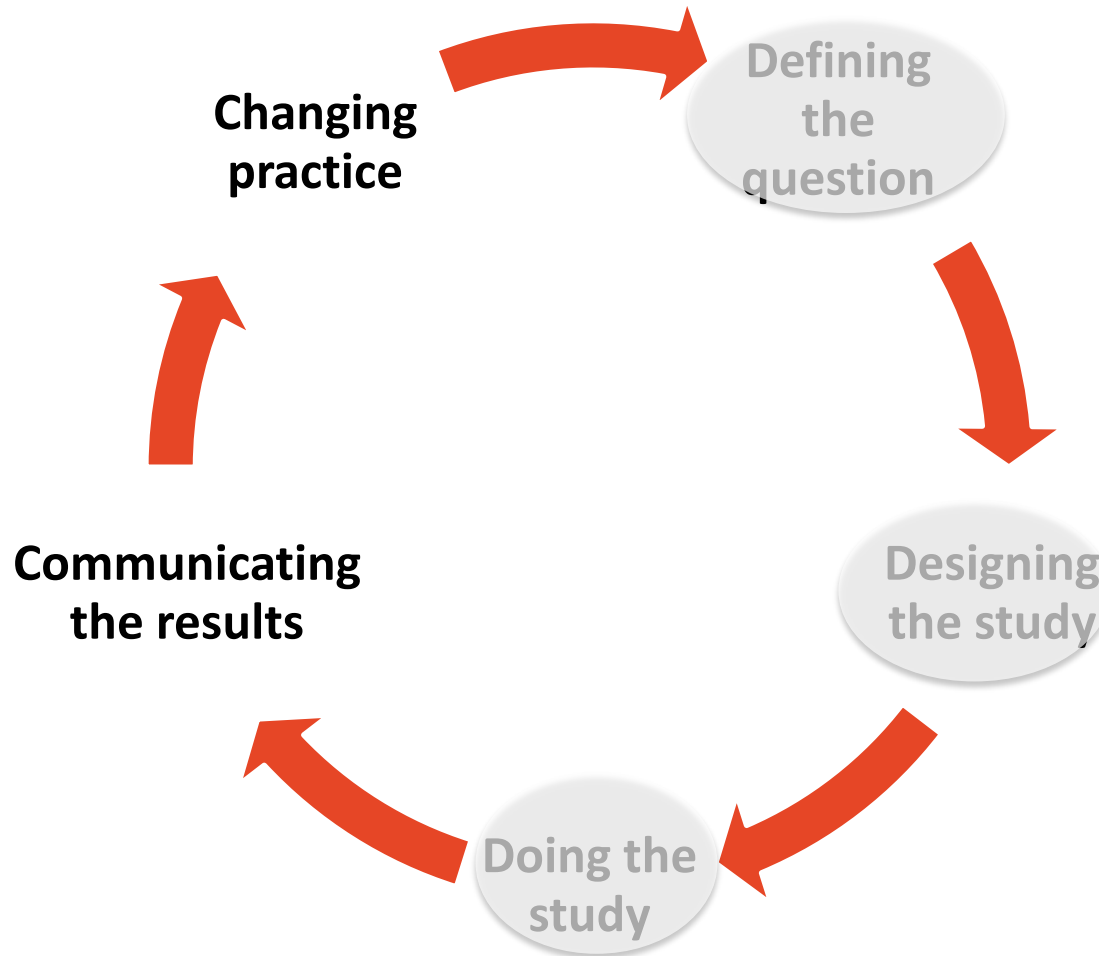
Consumers as assessors of change



Consumers as assessors of change



The gap occurs at all steps of the cycle





The answer is 17 years, what is the question: understanding time lags in translational research



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Correspondence to: Jonathan Grant. Email: jgrant@rand.org

DECLARATIONS

Competing interests

None declared

Funding

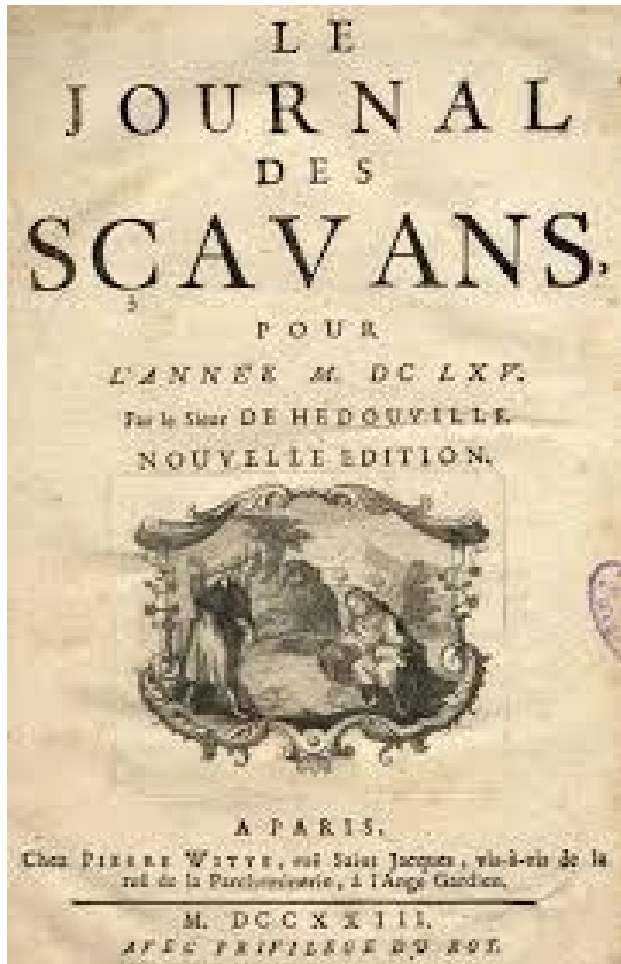
This is an independent paper funded by the Policy Research Programme in the Department of Health. The views

Summary

This study aimed to review the literature describing and quantifying time lags in the health research translation process. Papers were included in the review if they quantified time lags in the development of health interventions. The study identified 23 papers. Few were comparable as different studies use different measures, of different things, at different time points. We concluded that the current state of knowledge of time lags is of limited use to those responsible for R&D and knowledge transfer who face difficulties in knowing what they should or can do to reduce time lags. This effectively 'blindfolds' investment decisions and risks wasting effort. The study concludes that understanding lags first requires agreeing models, definitions and measures, which can be applied in practice. A

It takes on average 17 years for research findings to be implemented into practice

We are drowning in research papers



One of the first journals (1665)



Now – over 1m journals

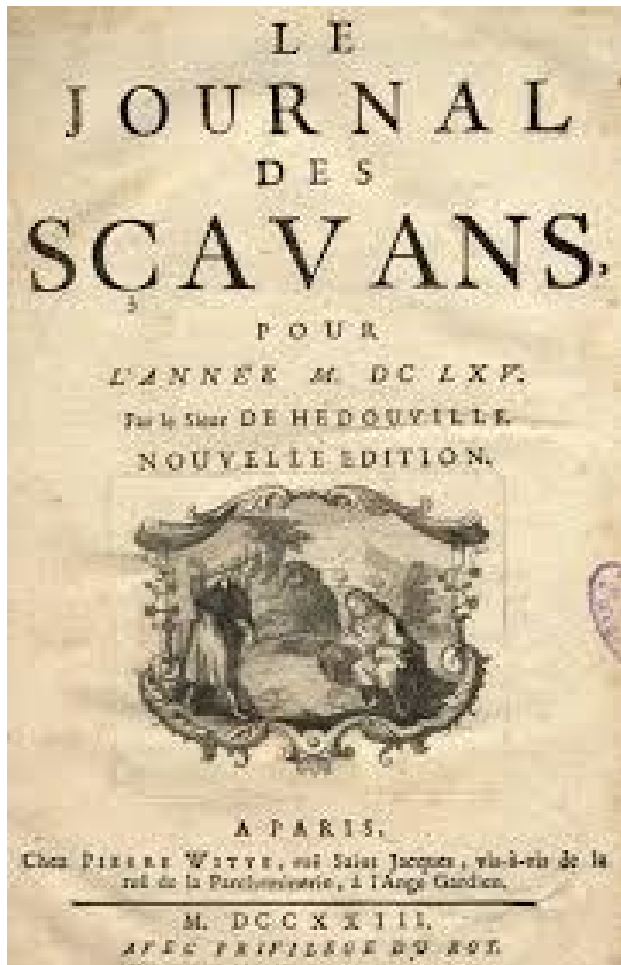
1m journals X 12 editions X 15 papers X 60 years
= 11,000 million!!!

Chalmers & Glasziou Lancet 2009; 374: 86–89

85% of research is wasted, usually because it asks the wrong questions, or does not change practice.



We are drowning in research papers



*“.....as dull as telephone directories
and twice as obscure.....”*

(Smith [J R Soc Med](#) 2006 Mar; 99: 115–119).

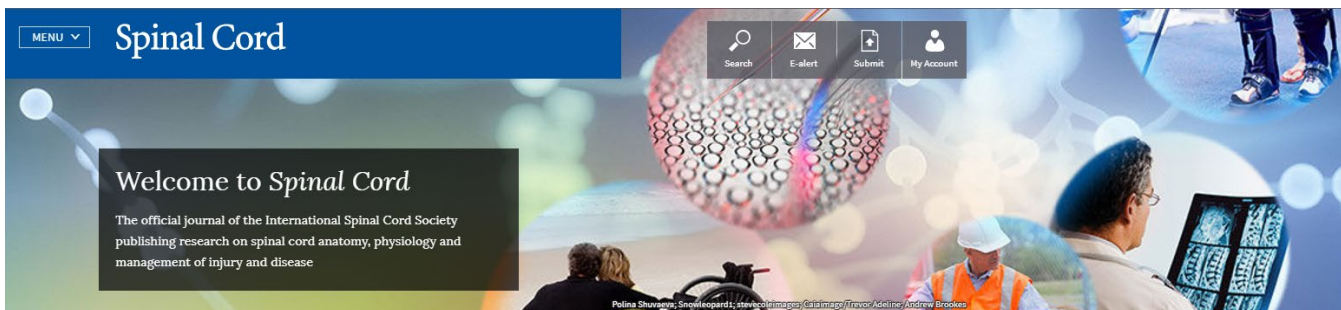
Except for one.....of course



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The official journal of the International Spinal Cord Society publishing research on spinal cord anatomy, physiology and management of injury and disease

Polina Shvachva; Smeekamp; stevecoimages; iStockphoto; Trevor Adeline; Andrew Brookes

www.nature.com/SC

Researchers are “SPINNING” results



Why?

- Passionate
- Self interest

Spinal Cord (2015) 53, 417
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www.nature.com/sc

EDITOR'S PAGE

Spin kills science

LA Harvey
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E-mail: lisa.harvey@sydney.edu.au

Have you ever wondered why so much published research in the area of spinal cord injuries (SCI) has positive conclusions? Simple probability tells us that these results are not reflective of the full truth. Researchers can't possibly be picking winners every time they tackle a question. So what is going on here? The most likely explanation for the high proportion of positive conclusions is that many researchers are putting a positive spin on the conclusions of their negative research. Spin is rampant in all areas of medical research and SCI research is no exception.¹⁻⁴

Spin puts negative findings in a more palatable way to editors, journals, patients, funders and readers. There are many ways to do this (see Boxton et al for a systematic evaluation of different forms of spin). For example, in

Academic institutes are “SPINNING” results

Annals of Internal Medicine

ARTICLE

Press Releases by Academic Medical Centers: Not So Academic?

Steven Woloshin, MD, MS; Lisa M. Schwartz, MD, MS; Samuel L. Casella, MPH; Abigail T. Kennedy, BA; and Robin J. Larson, MD, MPH

Background: The news media are often criticized for exaggerated coverage of weak science. Press releases, a source of information for many journalists, might be a source of those exaggerations.

Objective: To characterize research press releases from academic medical centers.

Design: Content analysis.

Setting: Press releases from 10 medical centers at each extreme of *U.S. News & World Report's* rankings for medical research.

Measurements: Press release quality.

Results: Academic medical centers issued a mean of 49 press releases annually. Among 200 randomly selected releases analyzed in detail, 87 (44%) promoted animal or laboratory research, of which 64 (74%) explicitly claimed relevance to human health. Among 95 releases about primary human research, 22 (23%) omit-

ted study size and 32 (34%) failed to quantify results. Among all 113 releases about human research, few (17%) promoted studies with the strongest designs (randomized trials or meta-analyses). Forty percent reported on the most limited human studies—those with uncontrolled interventions, small samples (<30 participants), surrogate primary outcomes, or unpublished data—yet 58% lacked the relevant cautions.

Limitation: The effects of press release quality on media coverage were not directly assessed.

Conclusion: Press releases from academic medical centers often promote research that has uncertain relevance to human health and do not provide key facts or acknowledge important limitations.

Primary Funding Source: National Cancer Institute.

Ann Intern Med. 2009;150:613-618.

For author affiliations, see end of text.

www.annals.org

Press releases from academic medical centers often promote research that has uncertain relevance to human health and do not provide key facts or acknowledge important limitations.

How are we getting research results?



The web

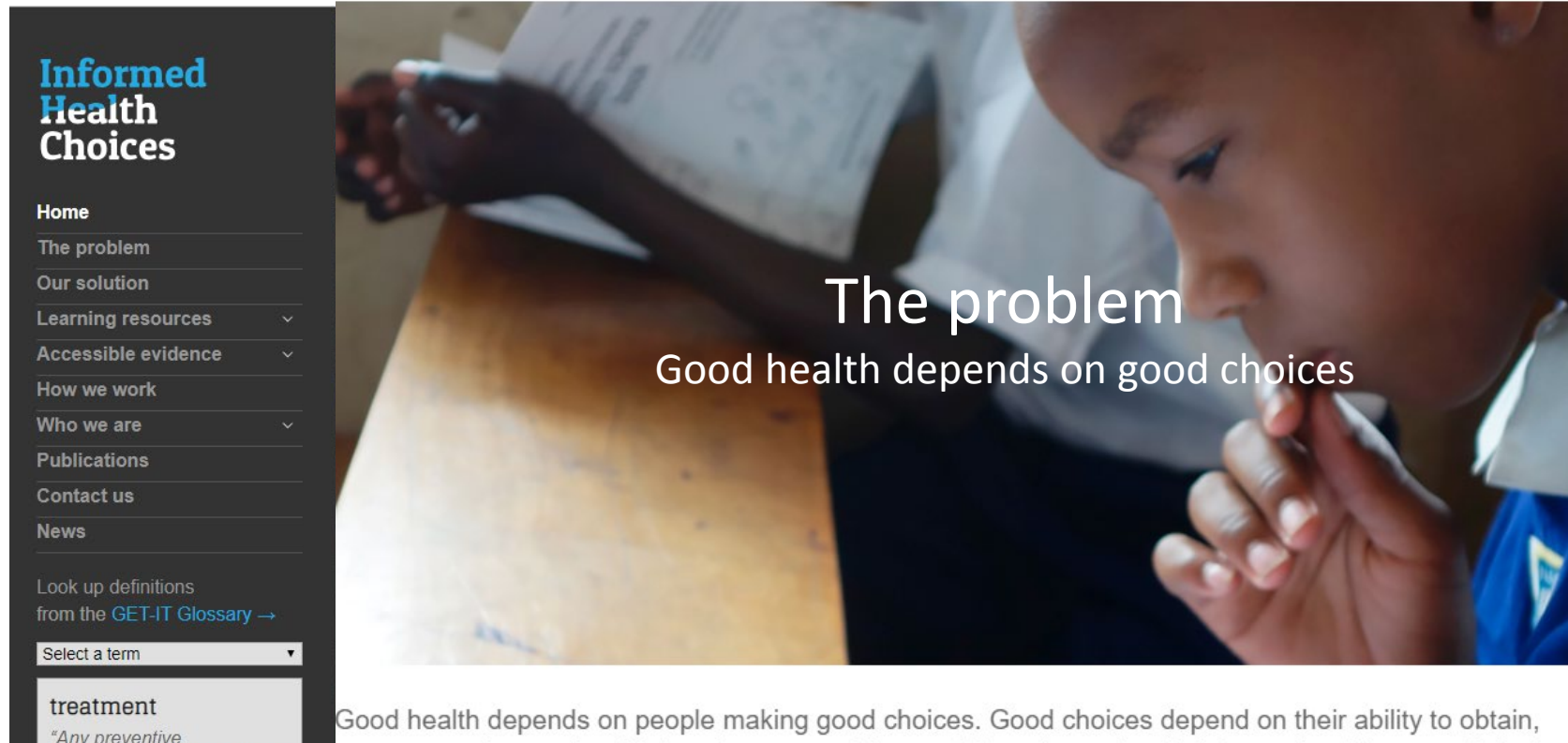


Social media and networking



The media

We need improved research literacy



Informed Health Choices

- Home
- The problem
- Our solution
- Learning resources
- Accessible evidence
- How we work
- Who we are
- Publications
- Contact us
- News

Look up definitions from the [GET-IT Glossary](#) →

Select a term


treatment
"Any preventive"

The problem
Good health depends on good choices

Good health depends on people making good choices. Good choices depend on their ability to obtain,

Good health depends on people making good choices. Good choices depend on their ability to obtain, process, understand and judge the trustworthiness of the relevant health information. **Most people lack that ability and they lack access to reliable information.**

We need trustworthy summaries of evidence



CONSUMER GUIDE: UPPER LIMB FUNCTION

SPINAL CORD MEDICINE

Preservation of Upper Limb Function: What You Should Know

A Guide for People with Spinal Cord Injury


consortium for **SPINAL CORD MEDICINE**
CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES
Administrative and financial support provided by Paralyzed Veterans of America

CONSUMER GUIDE: PRESSURE ULCERS

SPINAL CORD MEDICINE

Pressure Ulcers: What You Should Know

A Guide for People with Spinal Cord Injury



consortium for **SPINAL CORD MEDICINE**
CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES
Administrative and financial support provided by Paralyzed Veterans

SCORE
SPINAL CORD INJURY REHABILITATION EVIDENCE: Version 2.0
www.icord.org/scene

CHAPTER EIGHT
Respiratory Management Following Spinal Cord Injury

A William Sheel, PhD
W Darlene Reid, BMR (PT), PhD
Andrea F Townson, MD FRCP
Najib Ayas, MD FRCP, MPH



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G.F. Strong Rehab Centre

Western
The University of Western Ontario

We need results of research written in a way that is understandable by all









Non-pharmacological interventions for chronic pain in people with spinal cord injury

Cochrane Systematic Review - Intervention | Version published: 28 November 2014

Am score 10

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Authors' summary

For tDCS the pooled mean difference between intervention and control groups in pain scores on an 11-point visual analogue scale (VAS) (0-10) was a reduction of **-1.90 units (95% confidence interval (CI) -3.48 to -0.33; P value 0.02)**

Consumers' summary

Results from two studiessuggested that transcranial direct current stimulation reduced pain andthat exercise programmes for chronic shoulder pain provided pain relief.

**We need to provide knowledge in
different and accessible formats**



www.elearnSCI.org

**Elearning for health professionals and
consumers in SCI: a way to reach all**



We need to support people to access knowledge



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Courses run regularly by
ISCoS and others
THEY ARE FREE FOR ALL!

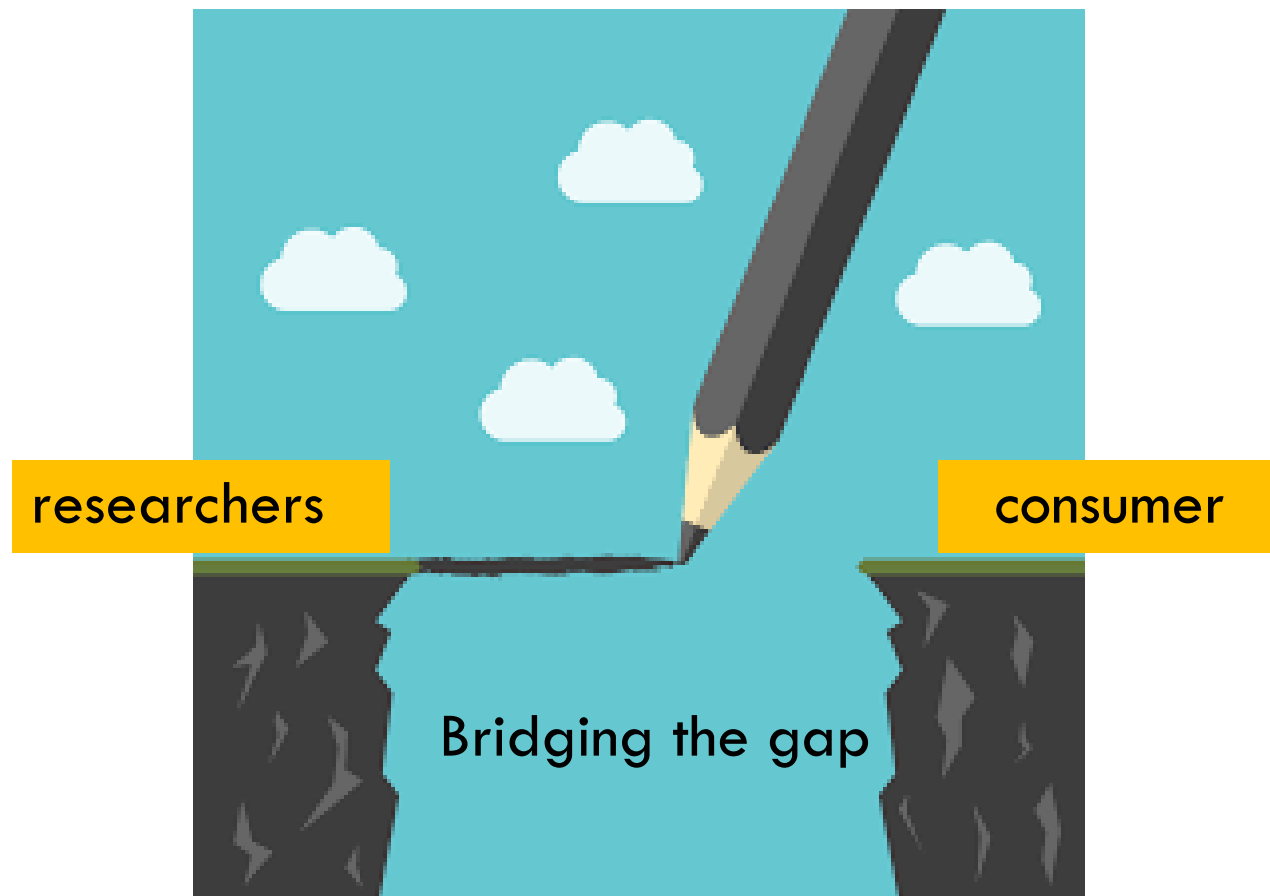
FREE ONLINE COURSES
Management of Spinal Cord Injuries

In summary, we need

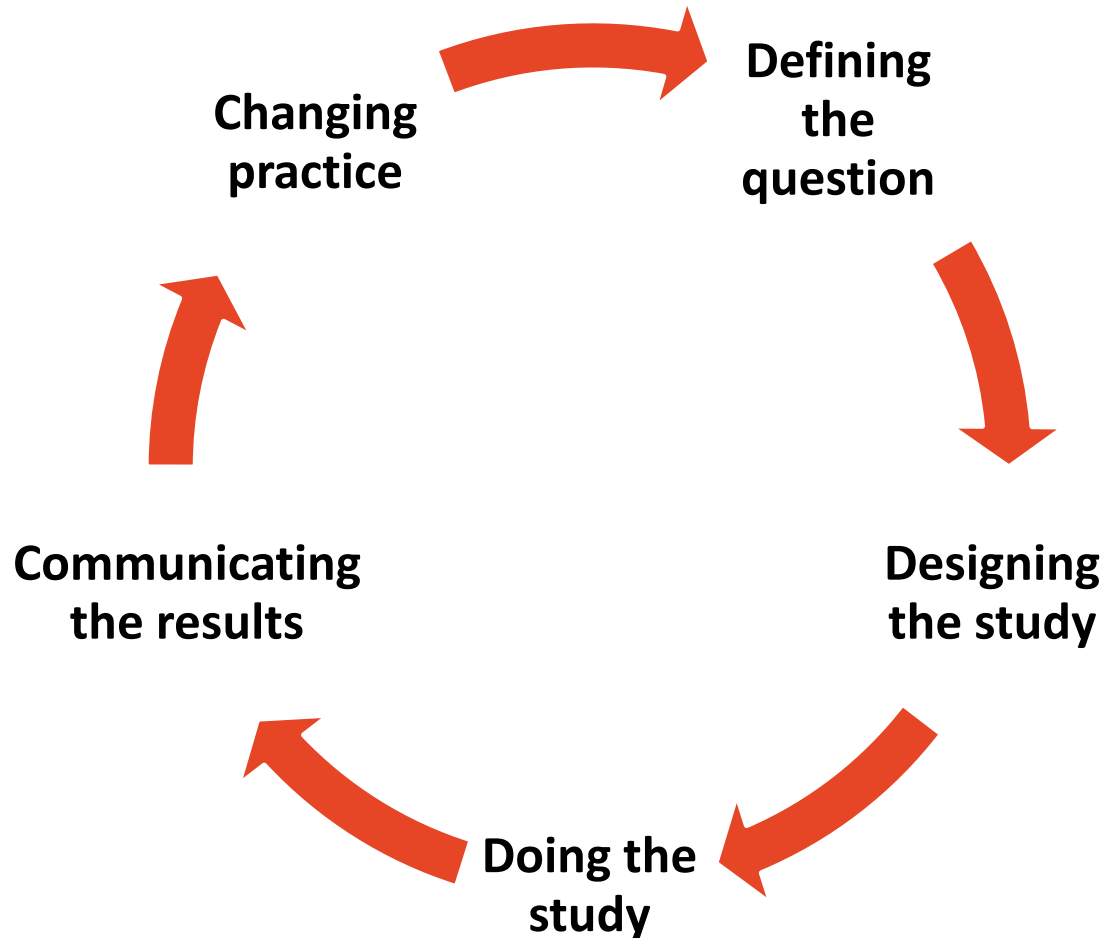


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We need to bridge the gap between researchers and consumers



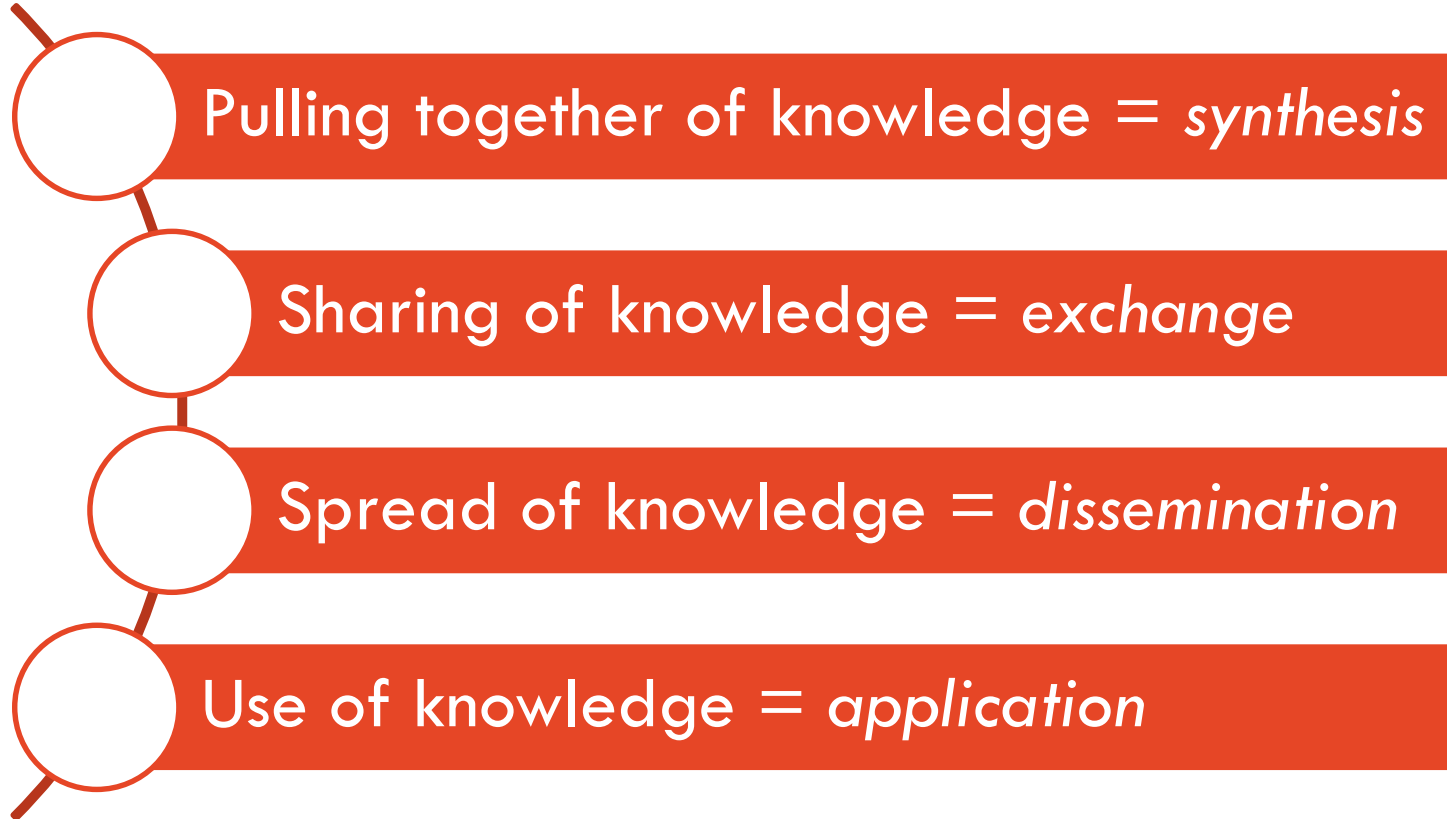
We need meaningful consumer involvement in all steps of the research cycle



Essential and part of knowledge translation



P
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Getting the **right** information, to the **right** people, at the **right** time, and in a format they can use, so as to influence healthcare

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The solution – science literacy

HOW TO SPOT FAKE NEWS



- CONSIDER THE SOURCE**
Click away from the story to investigate the site, its mission and its contact info.
- READ BEYOND**
Headlines can be outrageous in an effort to get clicks. What's the whole story?
- CHECK THE AUTHOR**
Do a quick search on the author. Are they credible? Are they real?
- SUPPORTING SOURCES?**
Click on those links. Determine if the info given actually supports the story.
- CHECK THE DATE**
Reposting old news stories doesn't mean they're relevant to current events.
- IS IT A JOKE?**
If it is too outlandish, it might be satire. Research the site and author to be sure.
- CHECK YOUR BIASES**
Consider if your own beliefs could affect your judgement.
- ASK THE EXPERTS**
Ask a librarian, or consult a fact-checking site.


International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions

Develop science literacy to be able to distinguish between reliable and unreliable claims

<https://mailchi.mp/6b0b1ebf1bfd/august-2017-monthly-digest?e=2a53a448f3>

The solution – science literacy

ARTICLE

Key concepts that people need to understand to assess claims about treatment effects

Astrid Austvoll-Dahlgren¹, Andrew D. Oxman², Iain Chalmers³, Allen Nsangi⁴, Claire Glenton², Simon Lewin^{2,5}, Angela Morelli², Sarah Rosenbaum⁶, Daniel Semakula⁴ and Nelson Sewankambo⁴

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⁶Norwegian Knowledge Centre for the Health Services, Communication Unit, BOKS 7004 St.Olavsplass, 0130 Oslo, Norway

Keywords

Evidence based medicine; health literacy; user involvement.

Correspondence

Astrid Austvoll-Dahlgren, Norwegian Knowledge Centre for the Health Services,

Abstract

Objective: People are confronted with claims about the effects of treatments and health policies daily. Our objective was to develop a list of concepts that may be important for people to understand when assessing claims about treatment effects.

Methods: An initial list of concepts was generated by the project team by identi-

We need consumers to be involved in Clinical Practice Guidelines



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://nhmrc.gov.au/guidelinesforguidelines/plan/consumer-involvement>. The page header includes the NHMRC logo and the text 'BUILDING A HEALTHY AUSTRALIA'. The main content area is titled 'Consumer involvement' and contains the text: 'Guidelines can only meet the needs of the population if they are developed with meaningful and authentic engagement with consumers'. A sidebar on the left lists navigation options: 'What to do', 'NHMRC requirements', 'NHMRC Standards', 'Useful resources', 'References', and 'Acknowledgements'. The main text block defines 'Consumers' as people with lived experience of a health issue and discusses the terminology of 'involvement'.

Consumer involvement

Guidelines can only meet the needs of the population if they are developed with meaningful and authentic engagement with consumers

Consumer involvement

- What to do
- NHMRC requirements
- NHMRC Standards
- Useful resources
- References
- Acknowledgements

'Consumers' are people who have lived experience of a health issue. They might receive health care or advice, or otherwise use health care services. They include patients, their friends, families, carers and members of the general public. Consumers can also be people who represent the views and interests of a consumer organisation, a community or a wider constituency (Kelson, Akl et al. 2012). Representation by carers or consumer advocates is especially important for any consumer group that might have trouble getting their voices heard in their care, for instance people with dementia or mental ill-health.

The terminology used around consumer 'involvement' can be confusing since it is used interchangeably with related terms like 'consultation', 'participation', 'engagement', 'partnership', 'co-production' and 'collaboration'. A useful way to think of consumer involvement is decision making **with** or **by** consumers, rather than 'to', 'about' or 'for' them (Ocloo and Matthews 2016).

Guidelines can only meet the needs of the population if they are developed with meaningful and authentic engagement with consumers.

We need to ensure care is delivered according to Clinical Practice Guidelines

Abstract 19549: National Adherence to Guidelines for Stroke Prevention in Atrial Fibrillation

Geoffrey D Barnes, Sanders Chae, and James B Froehlich

Originally published 23 Mar 2018 | Circulation. 2018;122:A19549

Abstract

Introduction: Atrial fibrillation (AF) carries a significant stroke risk, which can be estimated by the CHADS₂ scoring system. ACC/AHA guidelines suggest that low risk patients can safely be treated with aspirin (ASA) while warfarin therapy benefits higher risk patients.

Hypothesis: Anticoagulation use in AF does not follow national

There is inconsistent care, and clinicians are not following clinical practice guidelines

Why do we care about research?



therapy/care
Evidence-based ~~medicine~~

.....that everyone understands



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Informed decisions.
Better health.

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August 2017

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Welcome to our latest news digest for members of the Consumer Network. You will

www.cccrg.cochrane.org

