

# Issues in Publishing



# Overview of Session & Introductions

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Karen: Editorial process & Council on Publication Ethics  
Introduction

Susan J: Distinguishing between reproducibility vs. not adding enough to the literature to merit publication.

Julie: “Salami slicing”

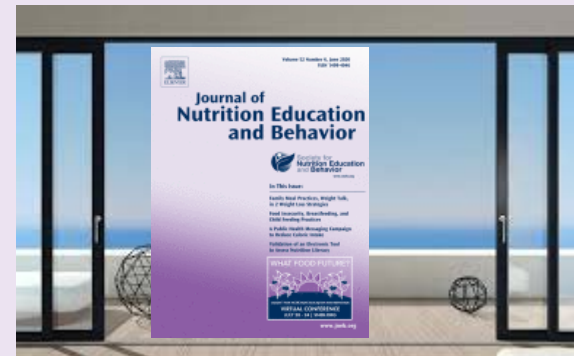
Madeleine: Overstatement of results

Chris: Precision of language

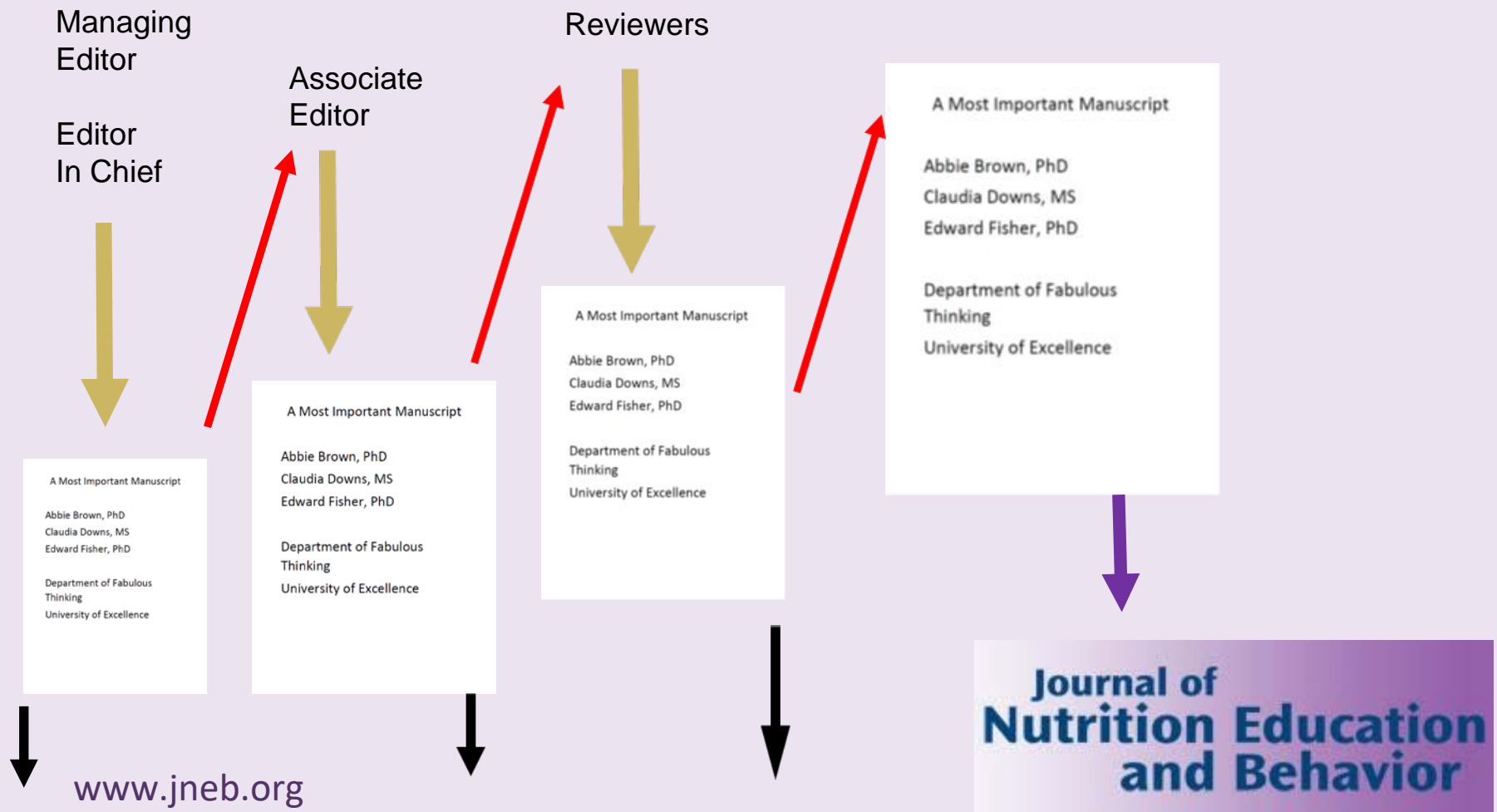
Bret: Good etiquette in citing references, eg what is a good citation, how many

# Overview of Session: Editorial Process

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# Editorial Process/Systems Overview



# Council on Publications Ethics

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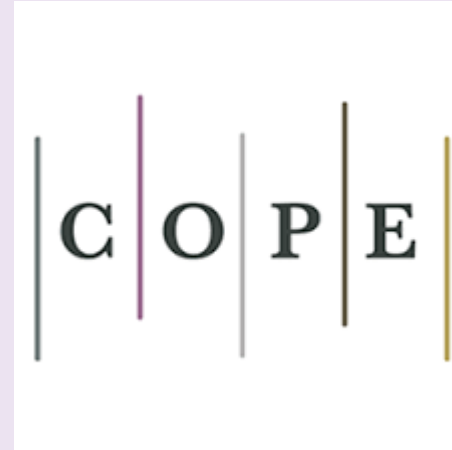
COPE is committed to educate and support editors, publishers and those involved in publication ethics with the aim of moving the culture of publishing towards one where ethical practices becomes a normal part of the publishing culture.

<https://publicationethics.org/about/our-organisation>

# Council on Publications Ethics

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- ▶ Flowcharts
  - ▶ Allegations
  - ▶ Authorship
  - ▶ Conflicts of interest
- ▶ Guidelines
- ▶ Cases
- ▶ eLearning



# HOW TO RECOGNISE POTENTIAL AUTHORSHIP PROBLEMS

## Authorship Policies:

Clear policies (that allow for transparency around who contributed to the work and in what capacity) should be in place for requirements for authorship and contributorship as well as processes for managing potential disputes.

For further details see: [publicationethics.org/authorship](https://publicationethics.org/authorship)

## Relevant COPE Cases:

Stolen Article: <https://bit.ly/2nKqMhX>

Authorship Issues from Disbanded Consortium:  
<https://bit.ly/2FDQgom>

Withdrawal Request by an Author: <https://bit.ly/2E4jJaE>

## Relevant Flowcharts:

How to Spot Authorship Problems: <https://bit.ly/2EjK3B4>

Suspected Ghost, Guest or Gift Authorship: <https://bit.ly/2E28akf>

Request for Removal of Author After Publication:  
<https://bit.ly/2Eg31ID>

What to do if you Suspect Systematic Manipulation  
of the Publication Process: <https://bit.ly/2RJo3CN>

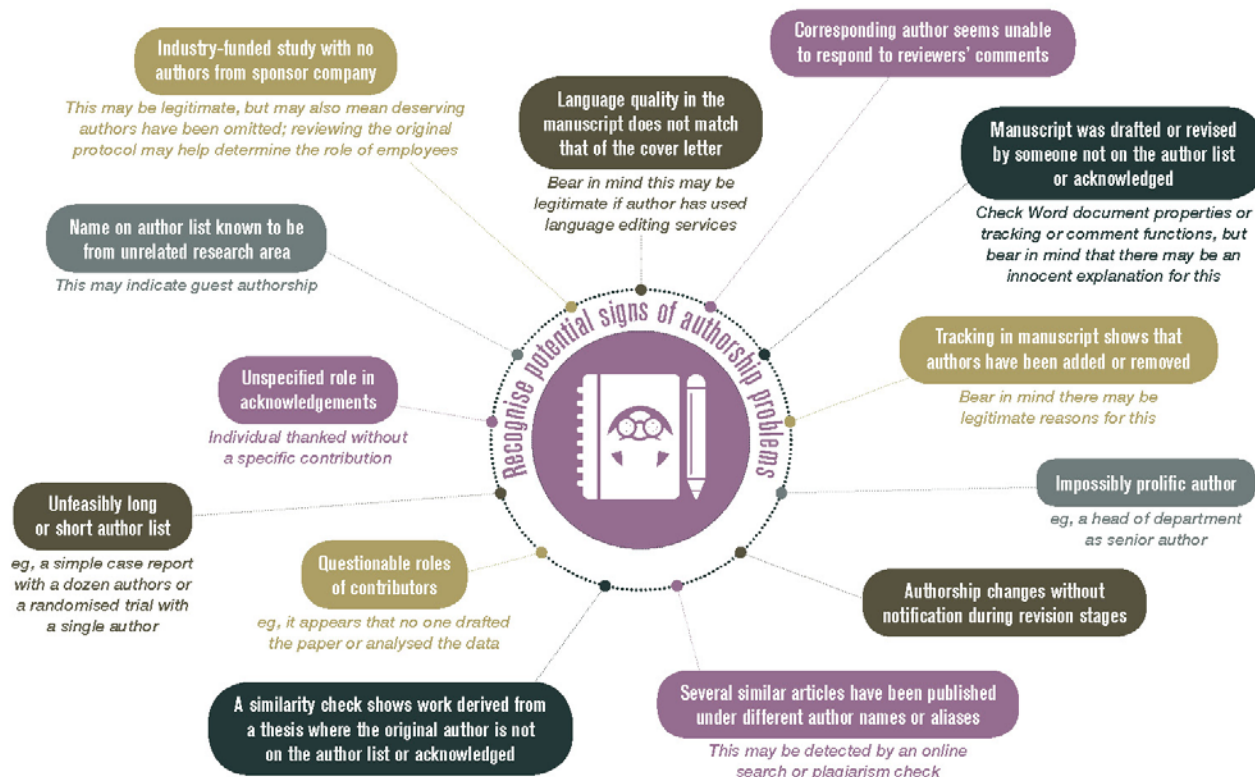
## References:

1. COPE Discussion Document on Best Practice for Issues Around Theses Publishing. <https://bit.ly/2s6nNpu>
2. COPE Webinar: Common Authorship Issues Faced by COPE Members. <https://bit.ly/2nEmskR>
3. ELearning module on Authorship (Members only). <https://bit.ly/2BWJ6tj>
4. Promoting Awareness of Good Authorship Practice. Siu-wai Leung <https://bit.ly/2GPY7Fx>
5. A Systematic Review of Research on the Meaning, Ethics and Practices of Authorship Across Scholarly Disciplines. Ana Manušić et al <https://bit.ly/2qxQbqp>
6. Publication Practices in Multidisciplinary Teams: A Closer Look at Authorship Assignment and Ranking. Drs Zubin Master and Bryn Williams-Jones <https://bit.ly/2nKQyL>
7. Transparency in Authors' Contributions and Responsibilities to Promote Integrity in Scientific Publication. PNAS, Marcia K. McNutt et al <https://bit.ly/2xyPQ01>
8. Ghost Authorship in Industry-Initiated Randomised Trials. Peter C. Gotzsche et al <https://bit.ly/2SVGIBT>
9. Authors, Ghosts, Damned Lies, and Statisticians. Elizabeth Wager <http://bit.ly/2E3zeQ6>

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## Signs that Might Indicate Authorship Problems



## Best Practice to Minimise Authorship Problems

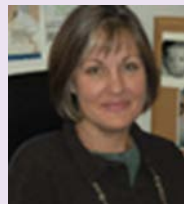




# What makes for a publishable contribution to the literature?

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- ▶ Reproducibility and Innovation: what is the tension about?
- ▶ The case for reproducibility
  - ▶ Pilot and fully powered studies
- ▶ What makes a study innovative?
  - ▶ Diverse sample (with comparison group) that either confirms existing model or that adds nuance to the model
  - ▶ New model tested or additional constructs added to existing model
- ▶ Preferable to add to, rather than simply confirm, existing literature



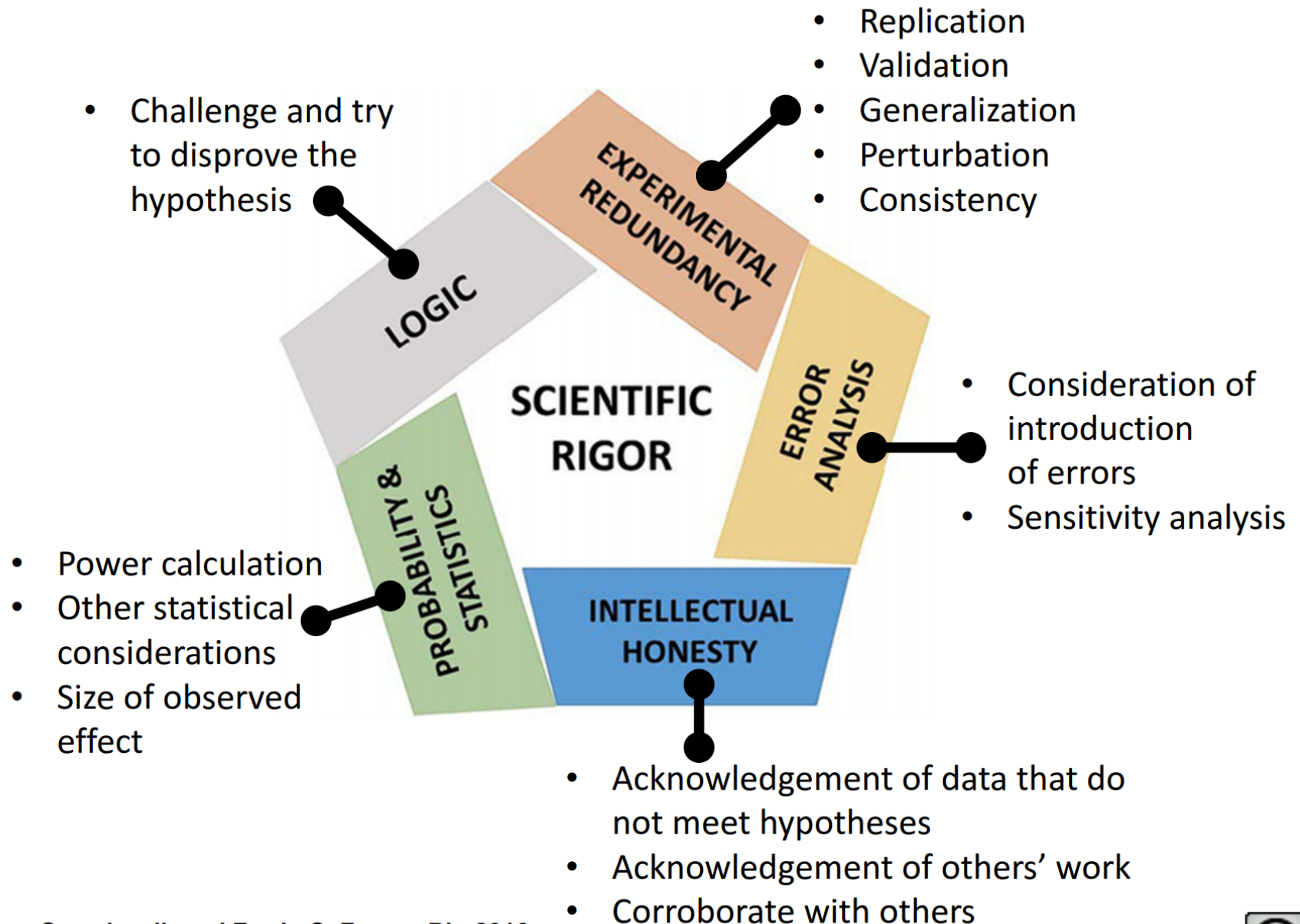


# Reproducibility and innovation

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- ▶ Reproducibility is a cornerstone of science
- ▶ BUT, researchers get rewarded for innovation
- ▶ What is the key channel through which both flourish:
- ▶ Rigor—
  - ▶ Details included/referred to
  - ▶ Terminology defined
  - ▶ Psychometrics included or established
  - ▶ Blinded assessors
  - ▶ Well-controlled studies
  - ▶ Appropriate statistical analyses
  - ▶ Appropriate interpretation/conclusion
  - ▶ Limitations and strengths

# How to write “Rigorously”



# Salami Slicing

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- ▶ *Salami publication (sometimes called bologna or trivial publication) is the **practice of dividing one significant piece of research into a number of small experiments (least publishable units or LPUs), simply to increase the number of publications.***



# Self-plagiarism

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- ▶ authors who reuse their own previously disseminated content and pass it off as a "new" product without letting the reader know that this material has appeared previously.

# Considerations to Avoid Salami Slicing

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- ▶ If the results of a single complex study are best presented as a 'cohesive' single whole, they should not be partitioned into individual papers.
- ▶ Furthermore, if there is any doubt as to whether a paper submitted for publication represents fragmented data, authors should enclose other papers (published or unpublished) that might be part of the paper under consideration.

# Overstatement of Findings

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## NEWS FLASH



# Overstatement of Findings

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## Statistical vs. clinical/practical significance of a nutrition education intervention

- ❖ Does consumption of 1.5 ounces SSB less than the mean reflect a higher quality diet?
- ❖ When might an intake of 0.5 servings of vegetables more than the mean reflect a higher quality diet?
  - Type of vegetable
  - Meets the recommendation



# Overstatement of Findings

**Effect size\*** (Cohen's d/ Pearson's r correlation)

Relative size	Effect size	% of control group below the mean of experimental group
	0.0	50%
Small	0.2	58%
Medium	0.5	69%
Large	0.8	79%
	1.4	92%

Strength of Association	Coefficient, <i>r</i>	
	Positive	Negative
Small	.1 to .3	-0.1 to -0.3
Medium	.3 to .5	-0.3 to -0.5
Large	.5 to 1.0	-0.5 to -1.0

\*<https://www.simplypsychology.org/cohen-d.jpg?ezimgfmt=rs:474x224/rscb19/ng:webp/ngcb19>

# Overstatement of Findings

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## Correlation Coefficient

**R** value reports strength of relationship.

**R<sup>2</sup>** value reports how much of the variance is accounted for by the model.

e.g. an *r* value of .7 means 49% of the variance is related

# Overstatement of Findings

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## Cross-sectional Studies

- Cannot imply causality
- Potential bias (recall, response)
- Bidirectionality

## Secondary Analyses

- Was study designed to answer the new research question?

# Overstatement of Findings

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- Temper language
- Acknowledge limitations
- Consider generalizability
- Potential biological plausibility
- Suggest future research and practice needs based on findings

# Precision of Language

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- ▶ Research questions drive the design and the statistics
  - ▶ Establishes the context of your story
  
- ▶ The tone and accuracy of the language are critical to accurately communication of findings
  - ▶ Context
  - ▶ Content
  - ▶ Representation
  - ▶ Causation/Association
  - ▶ Temporality



# What term is correct?

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▶ Intakes or habits?

▶ Increased or higher?

▶ Usual intakes?

▶ Better or improved?

▶ Adequate or optimal?

▶ Correlates or determinants?

▶ Good or more desirable?

▶ Knowledge or awareness?

▶ Healthy? Unhealthy?

▶ Should or could?

▶ Consumed or Reported?

# Critical Nature of Language

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- ▶ Communicates the application of the findings to the reader
- ▶ Establishes impact and implications
- ▶ Defines level of evidence
- ▶ Inaccurate representation often leads to the overstating of findings and an inappropriate recommendations for practice



# Guidelines for Responsible Referencing

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- ▶ Which statements need citations?
  - ▶ Which citations to select?
  - ▶ Here are some guidelines for selecting citations
- ▶ e.g. Bart Penders: Ten simple rules for responsible referencing. PLoS Comput Biol 14(4): e1006036. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pcbi.1006036>



# Read the Publications You Cite

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- ▶ Does the paper actually say what you infer?
- ▶ The citation should be Primary & Authoritative
- ▶ Cite the original
  - ▶ Avoid citing a paper that paraphrases the original
- ▶ Recent and/or seminal

# Cite In Accordance With Content

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- ▶ The citation should point to the current point being made
- ▶ Cite transparently, not neutrally
- ▶ Cite yourself when required
- ▶ Prioritise the citations you include
- ▶ Evaluate citations as framed communication

-Thank you

# Summary and Conclusions

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- ▶ Primary issues covered today

- ▶ Process

- ▶ Ethics

- ▶ Reproducibility and innovation

- ▶ Overstatement of findings

- ▶ Precision in language

- ▶ Questions?

