

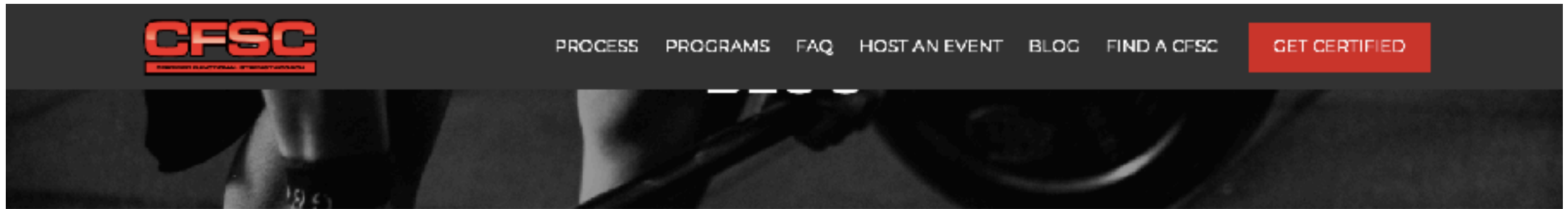
Welcome to:



**How to Read Research** *w/ Brendon Rearick, Kevin Carr, and Damion Perry*

- **Translation offered tonight** - hello to our Brazilian friends!
- **Use the Q&A box only** (Do not use: chat, raise your hand, text, email)
- **Brendon:** Facilitator & Student
- **Damion:** Teacher & webinar leader
- **Kevin:** Emotional support & analyst
- **Questions** - Why should I read studies? Where do I find good studies? How do I know it's a good study? How do I know if it's biased? How do I decipher the statistics? Can I just read the abstract?
- **Post Email w/ Recording & PDF**

# Our 6 other recorded webinars in case you missed them:



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# Critical Appraisal

Reading & Applying Evidence

Damion Perry B.S., CFSC



# Acknowledgment of Limitations

- We are not eminently qualified to dissect scientific literature or confirm/deny statistical analyses
- This will be about the art of learning and our personal processes







# Evidence-Based Medicine Paradigm

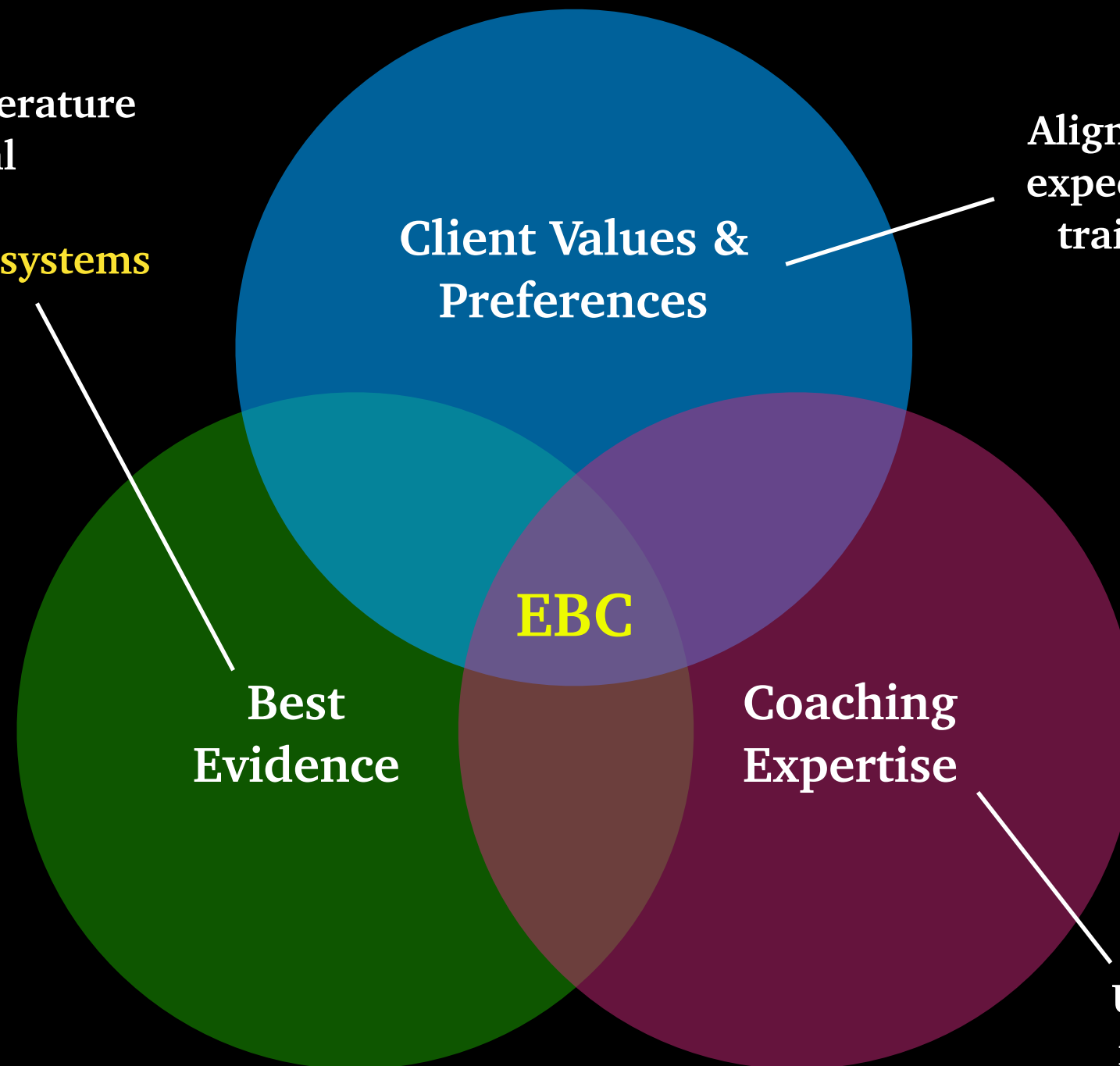
- “*Critical appraisal exercise*” (Guyatt et al., 1992)
  1. Define a problem
  2. Conduct search of the literature, select relevant studies & determine validity
  3. Present content of article(s) to colleagues & extract the clinical messages
  4. Apply to the patient problem



# Evidence Based *Coaching*

Integrating individual expertise & best external evidence

Critical appraisal of literature to investigate empirical patterns in order to **create evidence-based systems**



Aligning client goals & expectations with your training philosophy

Best Evidence

Coaching Expertise

Using past experience to make decisions that are in client's best interest



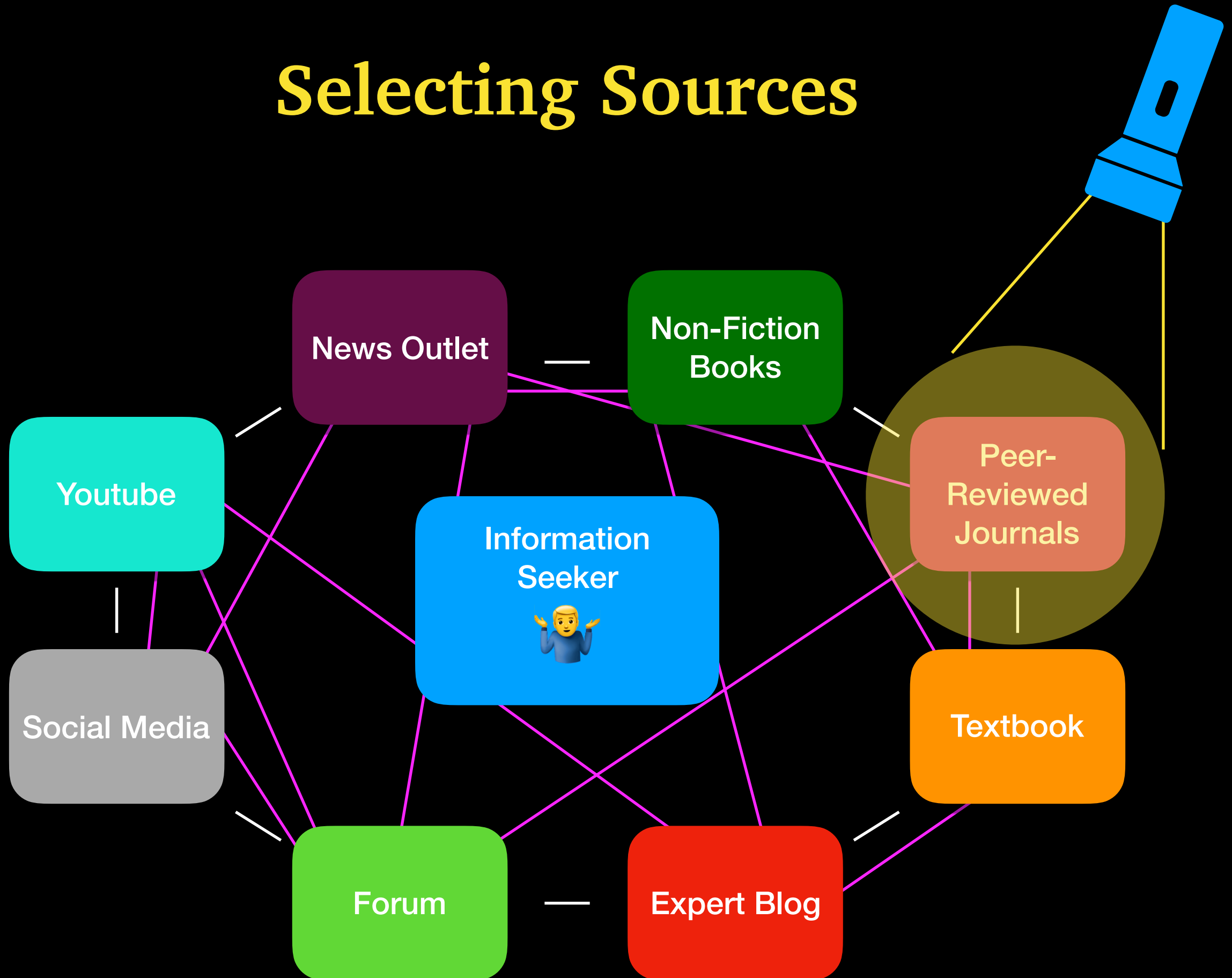
# Evidence based medicine: what it is and what it isn't

“EBM is not "cookbook" medicine. Because it requires a bottom up approach that integrates the best external evidence with individual clinical expertise and patients' choice, it cannot result in slavish, cookbook approaches to individual patient care.

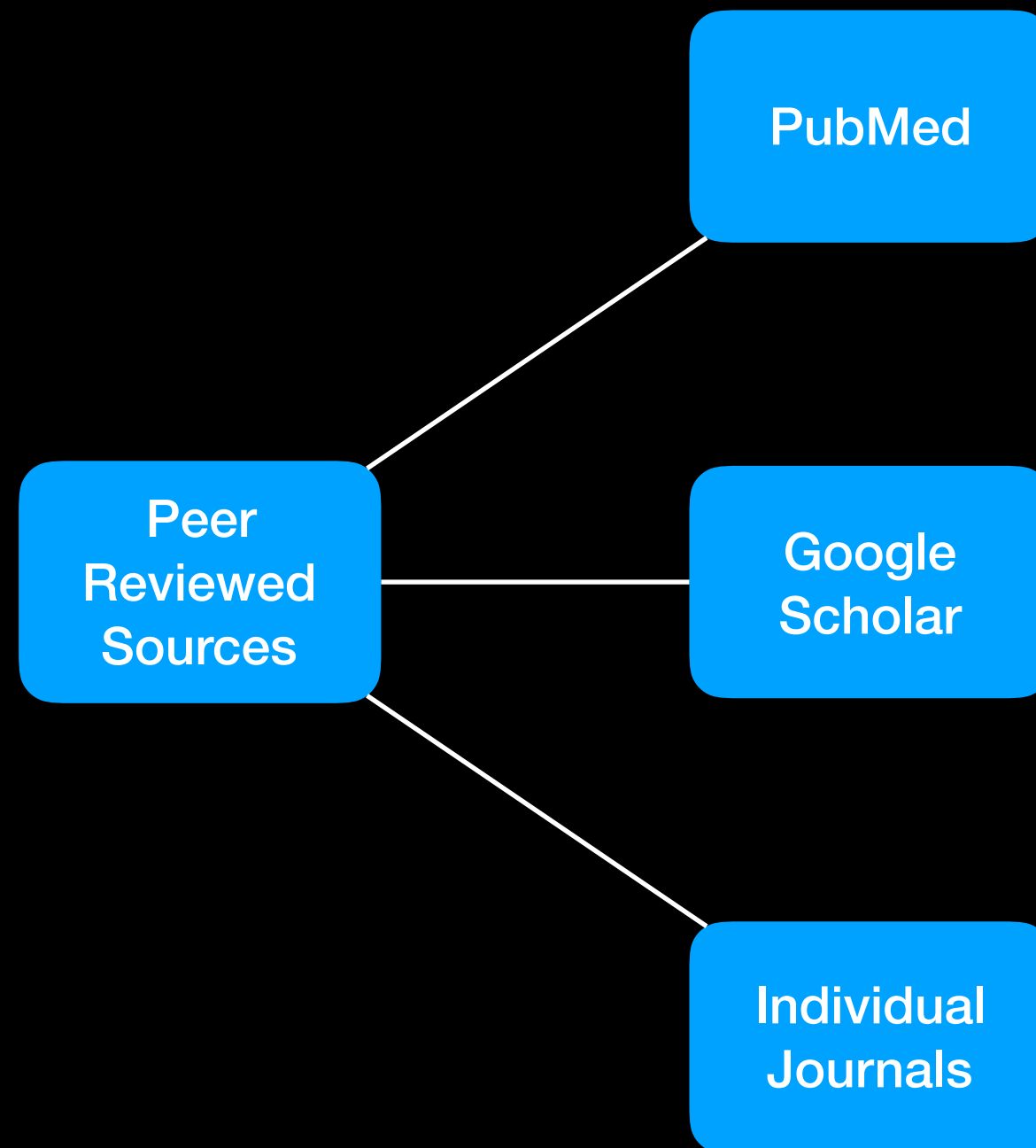
External clinical evidence can inform, but can never replace, individual clinical expertise, and it is this expertise that decides whether the external evidence applies to the individual patient at all and, if so, how it should be integrated into a clinical decision.”

(Sackett et. al. 1996)

# Selecting Sources

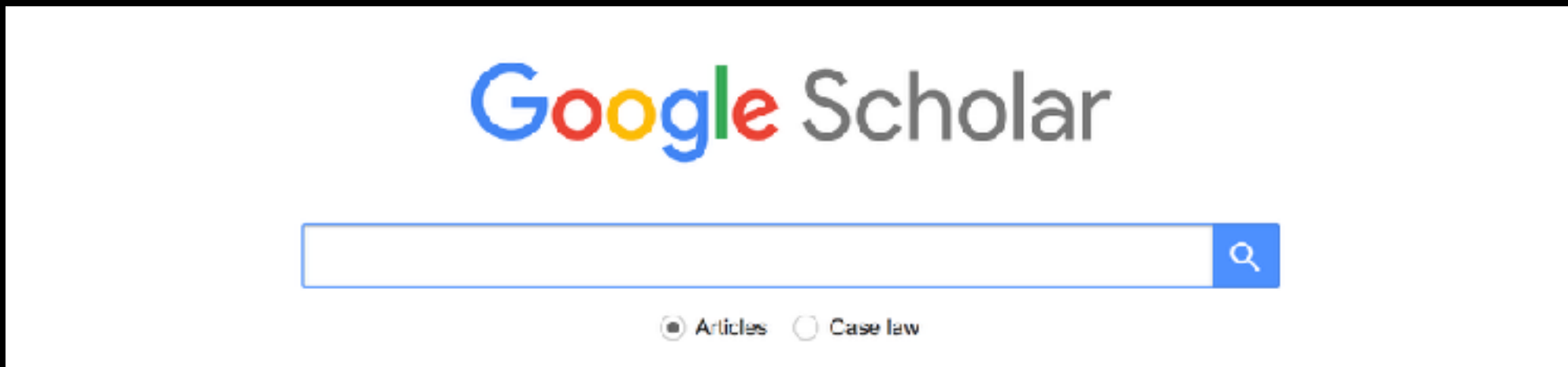
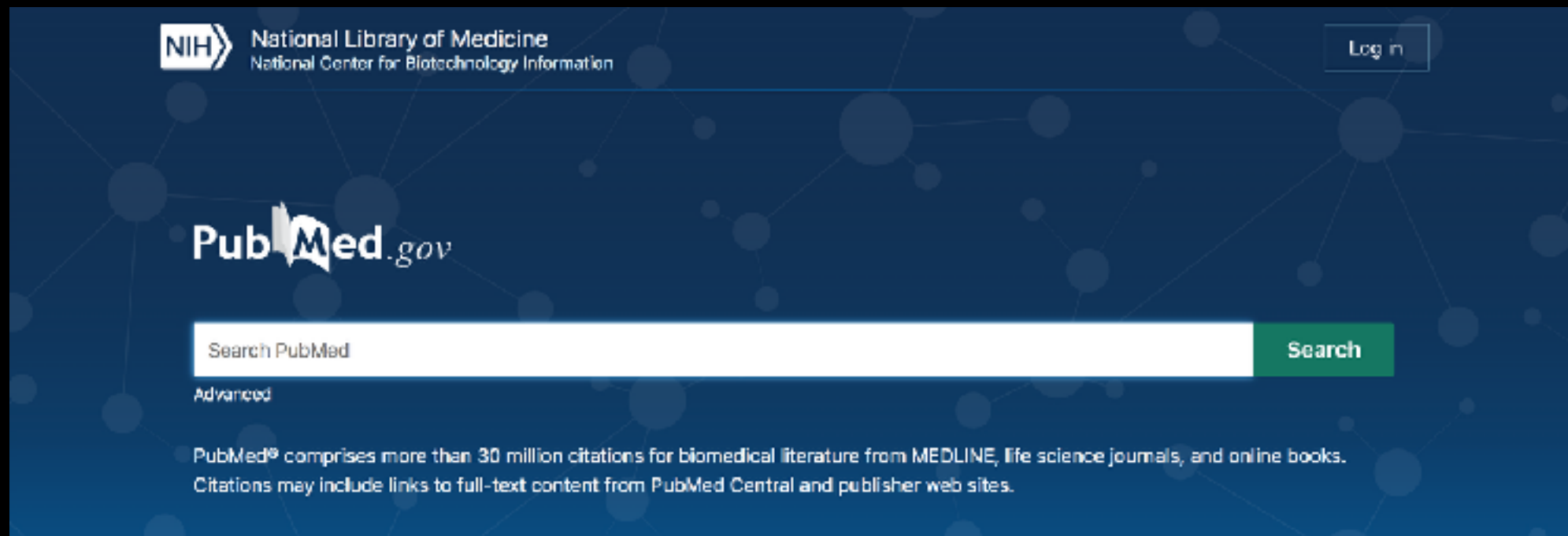


# Searching for studies: Databases



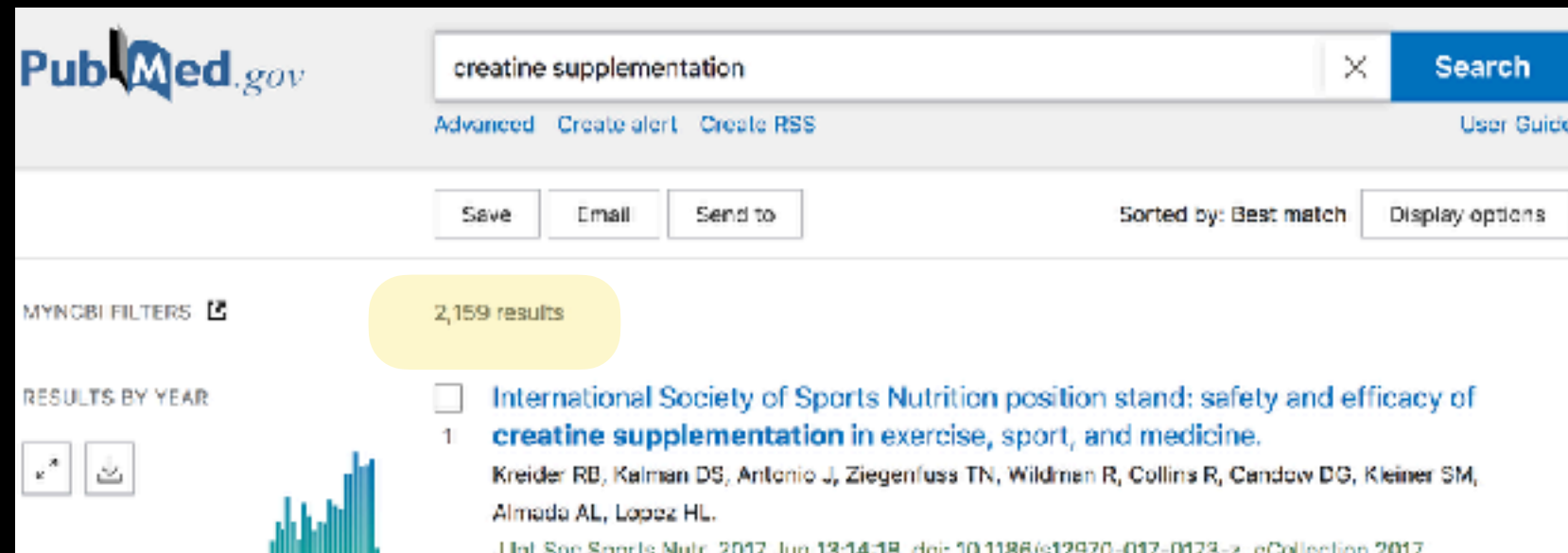


# Searching for studies: Databases

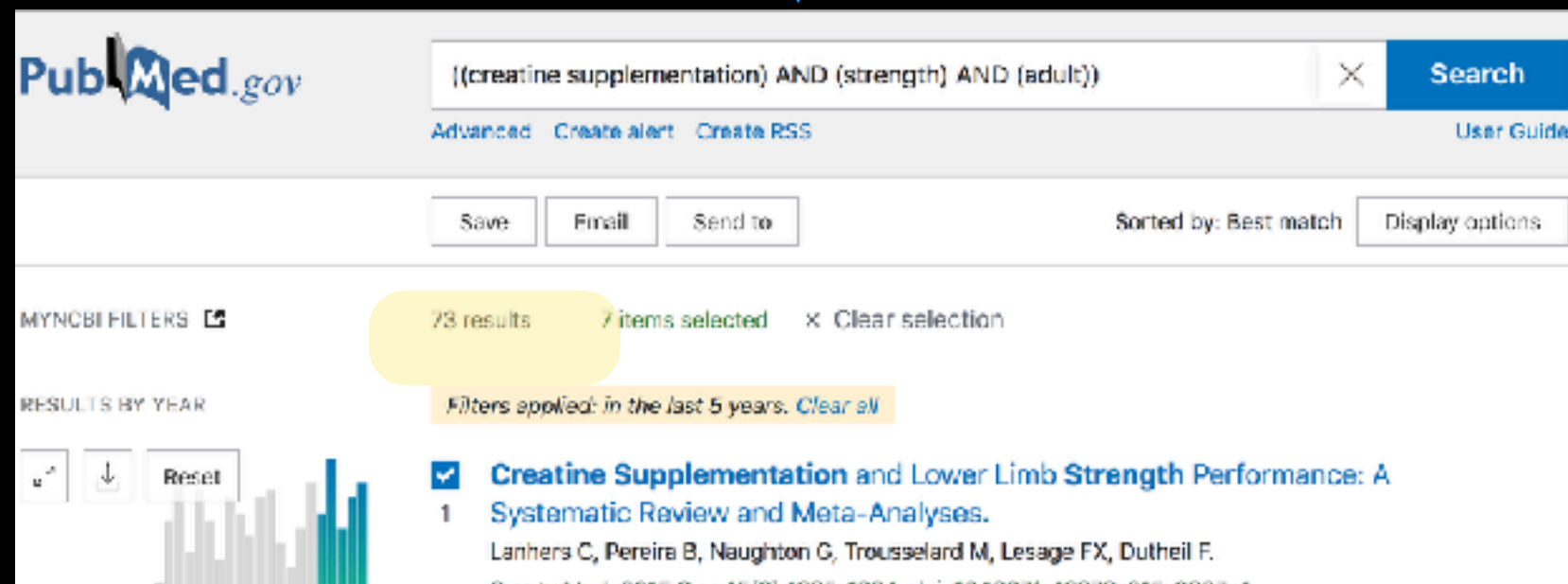
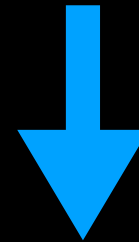


# Searching for studies: Databases

Limit your search terms!



PubMed.gov search results for "creatine supplementation". The search bar contains "creatine supplementation" and the "Search" button is visible. The results section shows 2,159 results. The first result is "International Society of Sports Nutrition position stand: safety and efficacy of creatine supplementation in exercise, sport, and medicine." by Kreider RB, Kalman DS, Antonio J, Ziegenfuss TN, Wildman R, Collins R, Candow DG, Kleiner SM, Almada AL, Lopez HL. J Int Soc Sports Nutr. 2017 Jun 13;14:18. doi: 10.1186/s12970-017-0173-z. eCollection 2017.



PubMed.gov search results for "(creatine supplementation) AND (strength) AND (adult)". The search bar contains the refined search terms. The results section shows 73 results, with 7 items selected. A filter is applied: "Filters applied: in the last 5 years. Clear all". The first result is "Creatine Supplementation and Lower Limb Strength Performance: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analyses." by Lanhers C, Pereira B, Naughton G, Troussellard M, Lesage FX, Dutheil F. Sports Med. 2016 Sep;46(9):1295-1304. doi: 10.1007/s40220-016-0227-5.

# Searching for studies: Databases

## First Pass: What to download

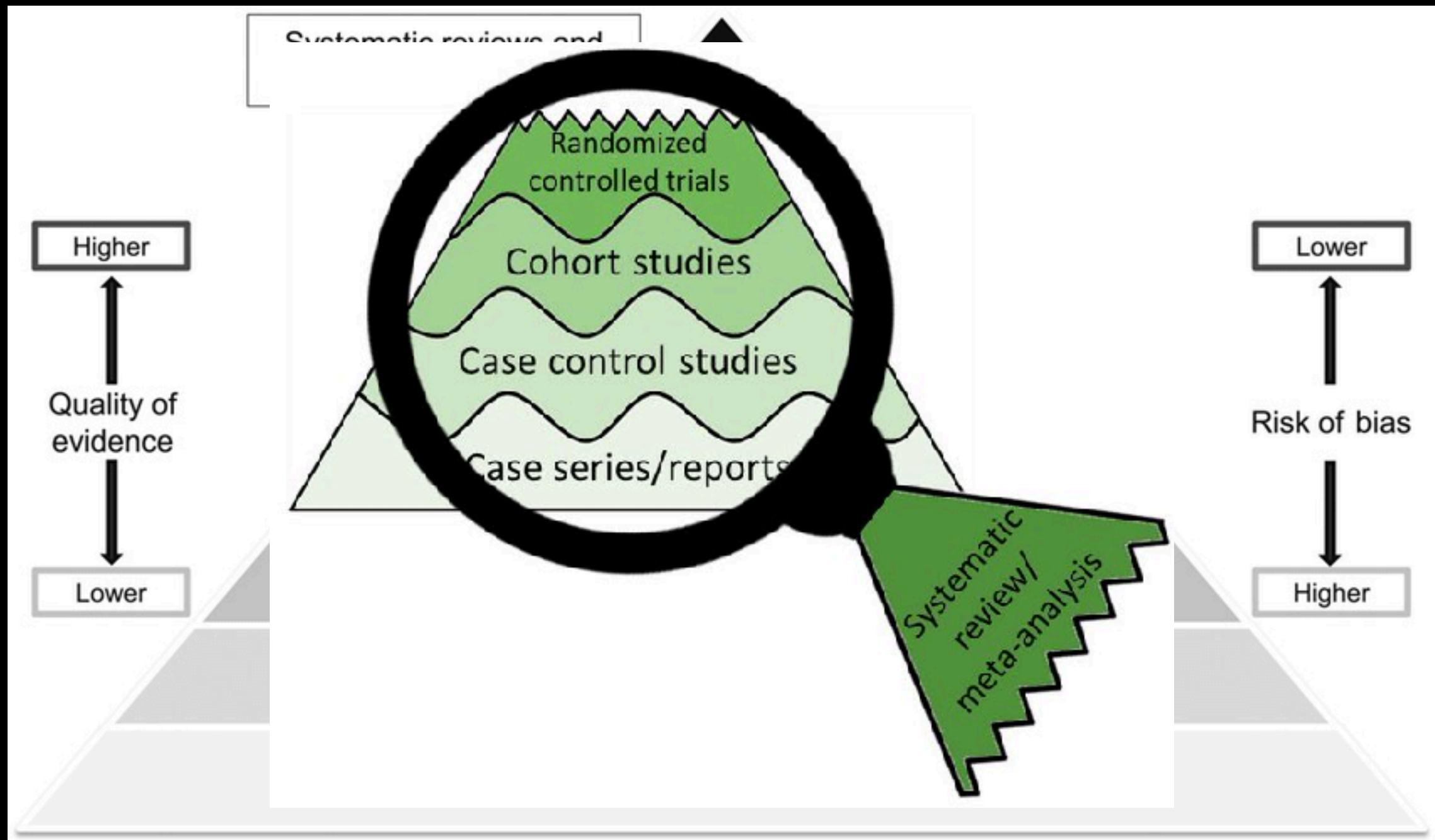
### Considerations

- Journal Published
- Type of Study
- Year Published
  - Newer doesn't necessarily mean "better"
- Does study title match your question

1. [Creatine Supplementation and Lower Limb Strength Performance: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis.](#)  
Lanthers C, Pereira B, Naughton G, Troussellard M, Lesage FX, Dutheil F.  
Sports Med. 2015 Sep;45(9):1285-1294. doi: 10.1007/s40279-015-0337-4.  
PMID: 25946994    Review.
2. [Effects of 4-Week Creatine Supplementation Combined with Complex Training on Muscle Damage and Sport Performance.](#)  
Wong CC, Fong CC, Lee YH, Yang MT, Chan KH.  
Nutrients. 2018 Nov 2;10(11):1640. doi: 10.3390/nu10111640.  
PMID: 30400221    **Free PMC article.**    Clinical Trial.
3. [Effectiveness of Creatine Supplementation on Aging Muscle and Bone: Focus on Falls Prevention and Inflammation.](#)  
Candow DG, Forbes SC, Chilibeck PD, Cornish SM, Antonio J, Kreider RB.  
J Clin Med. 2019 Apr 11;8(4):488. doi: 10.3390/jcm8040488.  
PMID: 30978925    **Free PMC article.**    Review.
4. [Strategic creatine supplementation and resistance training in healthy older adults.](#)  
Candow DG, Vogt E, Johannsmeyer S, Forbes SC, Farthing JP.  
Appl Physiol Nutr Metab. 2015 Jul;40(7):689-94. doi: 10.1139/apnm-2014-0498. Epub 2015 Feb 26.  
PMID: 25993883    Clinical Trial.



# Hierarchy of Evidence



# Systematic Review/Meta Analysis



## Systematic Review

Identify, appraise and synthesize evidence from multiple studies of the same research question

## Meta-analyses

Contained within systematic reviews, offer a means of statistically summarizing the body of evidence identified.

# Randomized Controlled Trials



- Prospective studies that measure the effectiveness of a new intervention or treatment.
- Considered the gold standard to determine the risk or benefit of a particular intervention.
- No one study can prove causality, but randomization reduces bias and provides a rigorous tool to examine cause-effect



# Observational Studies



- “Observational” because the investigator observes without manipulation
- Associations discovered in these studies help to formulate hypotheses to be tested in subsequent controlled experiments
- Observational studies are a fundamental part of epidemiological research
- E.g. Cross-sectional studies, case-control studies, & cohort studies

# Bias & Confounding Factors

“Data are data. It is the intellectual framework with which one deals with the data that is at fault”-Robert Pirsig

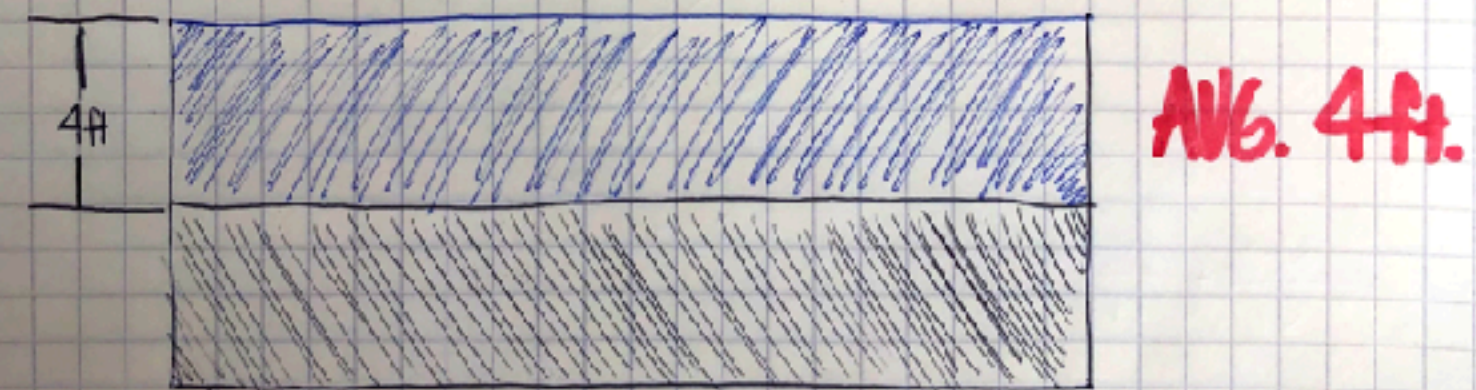
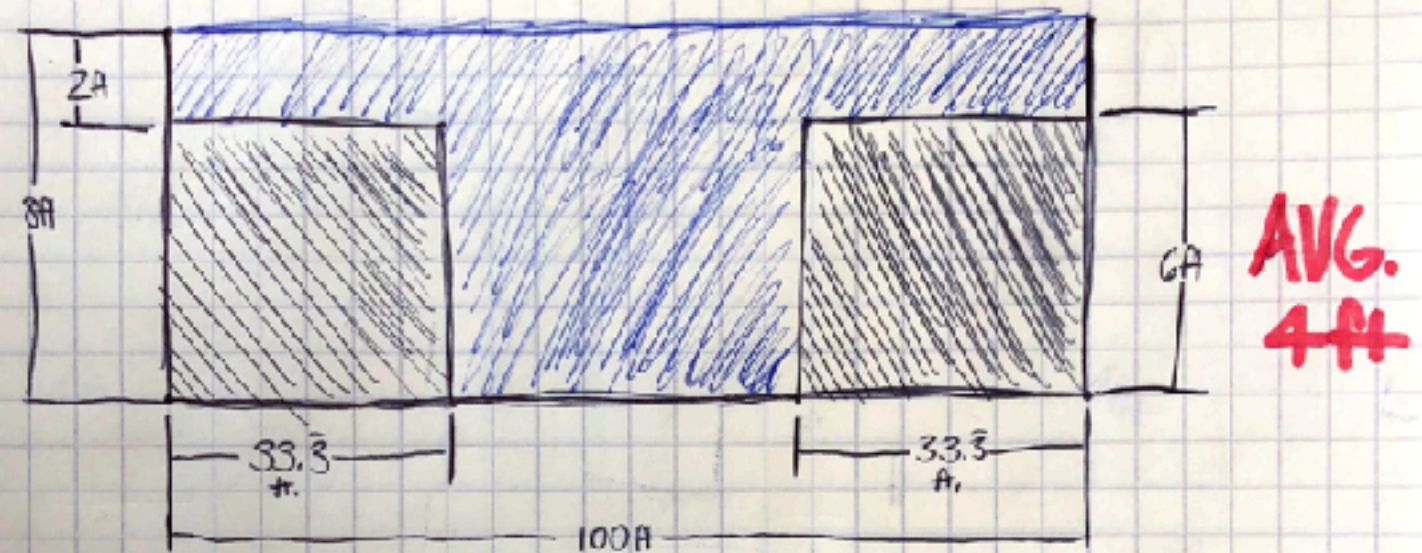
- Absence of evidence is not evidence of absence
  - Null hypothesis
- Bias
  - Scientists are human
  - Studies (often) have bias' embedded
- Attention to detail
  - Importance of reading body of evidence
  - Statistical analysis
  - Lab, funding, etc.

# Playing with statistics

- You're out for a hike and can choose to cross a river or go a few miles around to a bridge
- You are told the river is 100ft wide and an average of 4ft deep with very little current today.

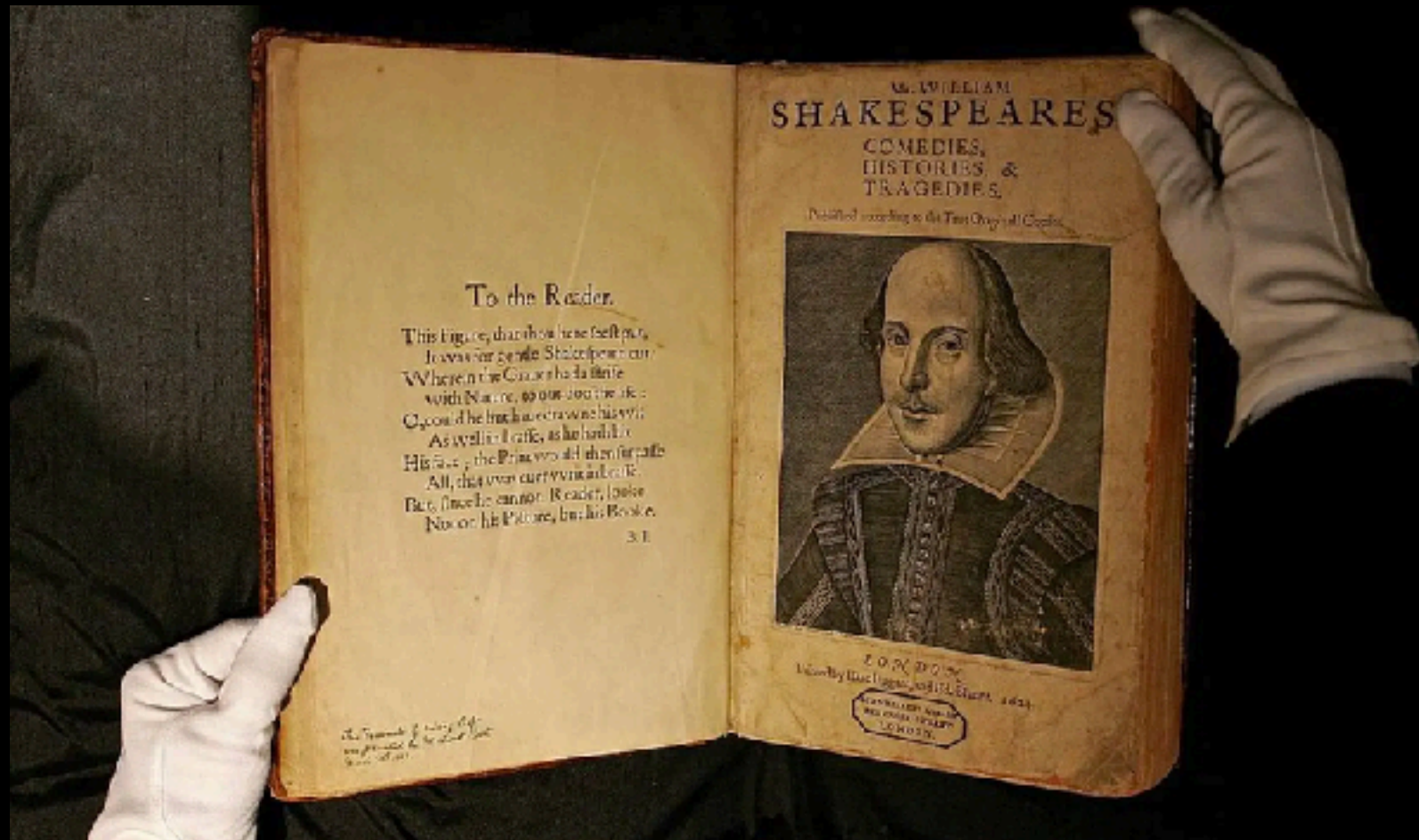








# Reading Research ...a lot like reading Shakespeare



**“that thou hast forgotten to demand that  
truly which thou wouldst truly know.”**

-Prince Henry, Henry IV Scene II (1H4.1.2.2-5)

# Speaking in Tongues

- "Blind"
  - Researchers and subjects are “blinded” to the protocol.
  - Double, Triple, etc. increase “blind”
- Statistical Significance
  - Quantifies probability of occurrence
  - $p < .05 = 5\%$ , marker for “significance”
  - Higher the p-value, the greater the chance that the effect you are seeing is not real
- Confidence Interval
  - Flip of  $p < .05$  value...Confidence Interval of 95%
  - A 95% CI says: 95% of experiments exactly like this one will include the true mean, but 5% won't.

# Rules of Reading

## Rule 1: Know the Question



**What are you looking for?**

- Beware of Bias
- Having a question will act as a roadmap



# Rules of Reading

## Rule 2: Read What Matters



- Don't get bogged down with one paper
- Order of Reading
  - Abstract
  - Introduction
  - Discussion
  - Methods
  - Results

# Rules of Reading

## Rule 3: Engage with yourself



### Be an active reader

- Make the article yours
  - Write in margins, highlight, etc.
- Keep a “journal”
  - Paper or electronic
  - Ask questions
    - Do I agree w/this?
    - How can this apply to my model?



# Rules of Reading

## Rule 4: Engage with others



### Apply your learning!

- Discuss w/colleagues
- Journal clubs
- Social Media
- Write Articles

# Anatomy of a Paper

- **Abstract**
  - Summary of article topic & findings
- **Introduction**
  - Current knowledge in the pertinent research
  - Hypothesis being tested
- **Methods**
  - Key techniques used in the experiment
- **Results**
  - Data obtained in the study
- **Discussion**
  - Conclusions drawn by the authors from their data
- **Acknowledgments & COI**
  - Source of funding and potential conflicts of interest
- **References**
  - List of articles cited

# Research Question Walk-Through

"A middle-aged male client asks you during a training session if you think that creatine would be a good supplement for him to take.

He read somewhere online that it helps you get stronger and put on more muscle mass, and wants to know what you think"





# Take Home Points

- You don't have to work in a lab to be scientific or ask research questions
- Don't feel that you have to understand an entire paper from one read
- Get your reps in. With more experience reading articles, you will get better at interpreting them
- Being widely read in a variety of topics is important to developing your own model
- Trust no one

# Contact Us

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