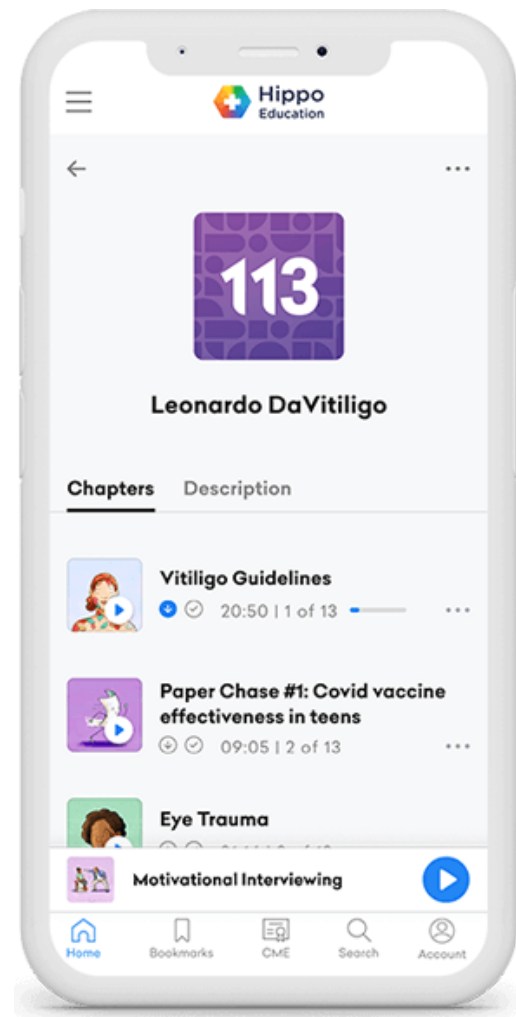


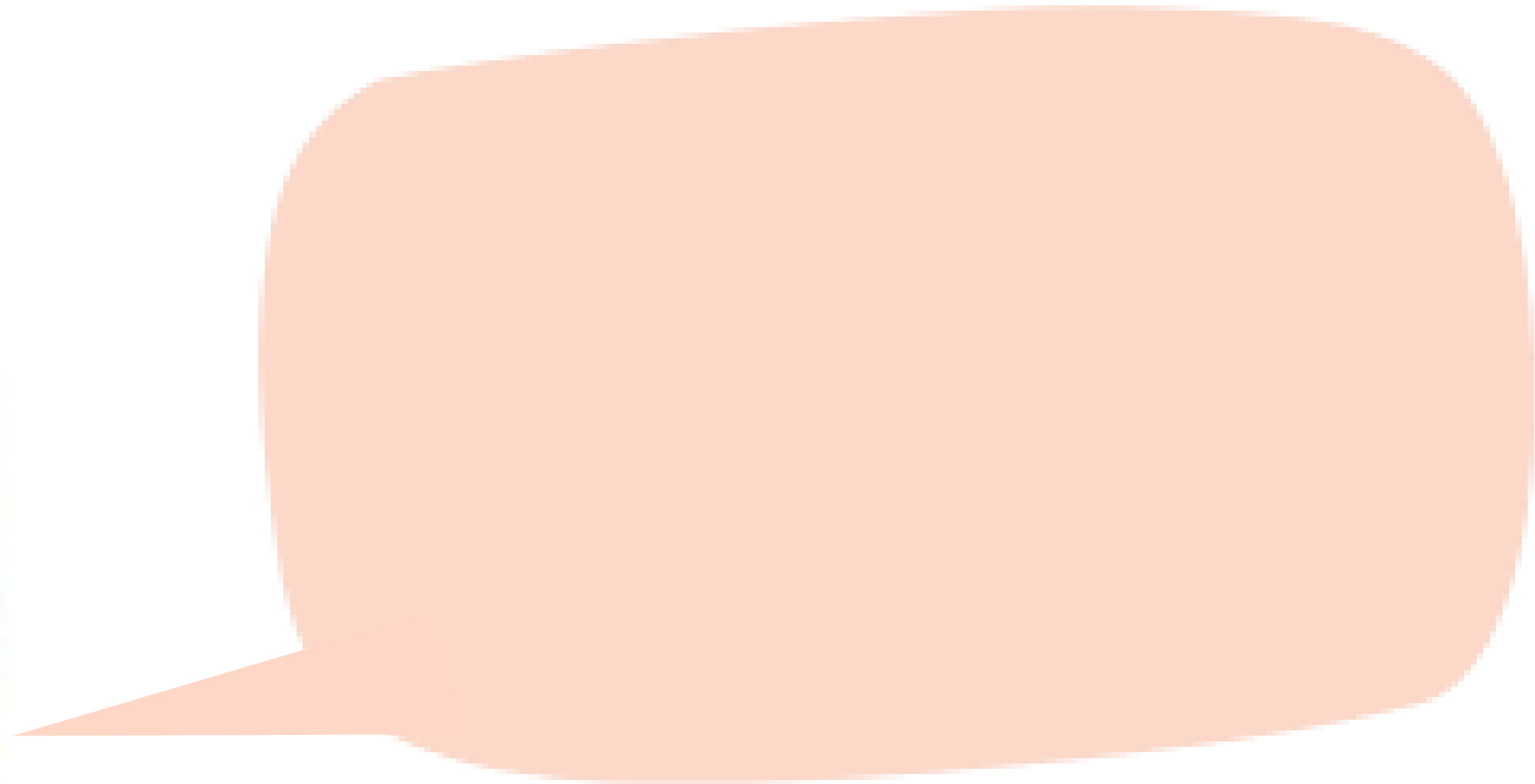
Twentyish questions to ask yourself to build an effective educational research question



MedEdGAMER.org
GAMER
Collaborative



Who am I?



Generating Good Research Questions in Health Professions Education

C. Jessica Dine, MD, MSHP, associate program director, Internal Medicine Residency Program, Judy A. Shea, PhD, associate dean, Medical Education Research, and Jennifer R. Kogan, MD, assistant dean, Faculty Development, Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania

Identify an idea or problem

Perform a literature review

Generate a specific research question

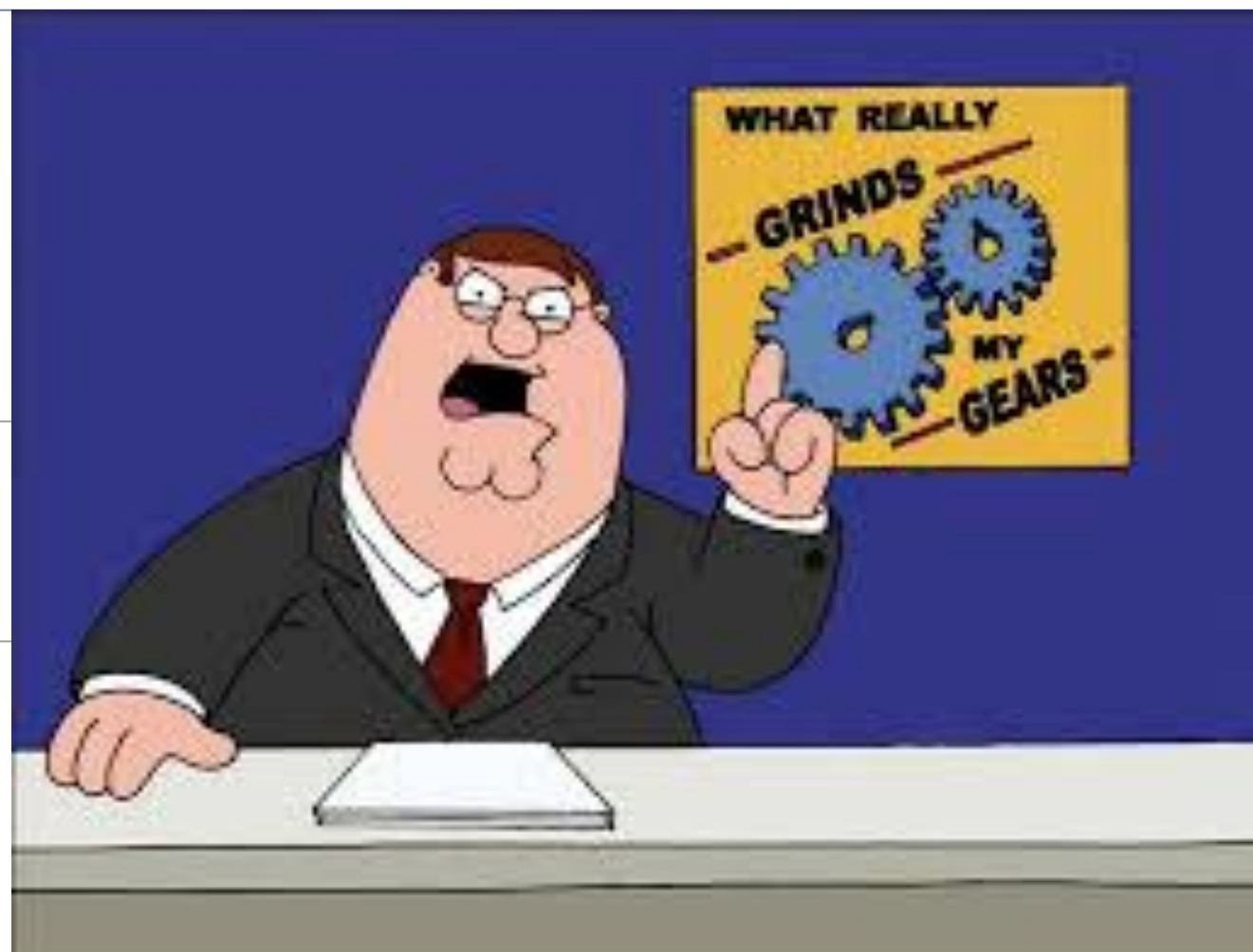
Develop a study design

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Identify an idea or problem

- Local problem
- Question from the literature



Lapses in handoffs have been occurring at your institution. You are wondering how to improve handoff process

Residents are arriving late to noon conference and the APD is grumpy about this

**Interesting interesting
or
Interesting impactful?**

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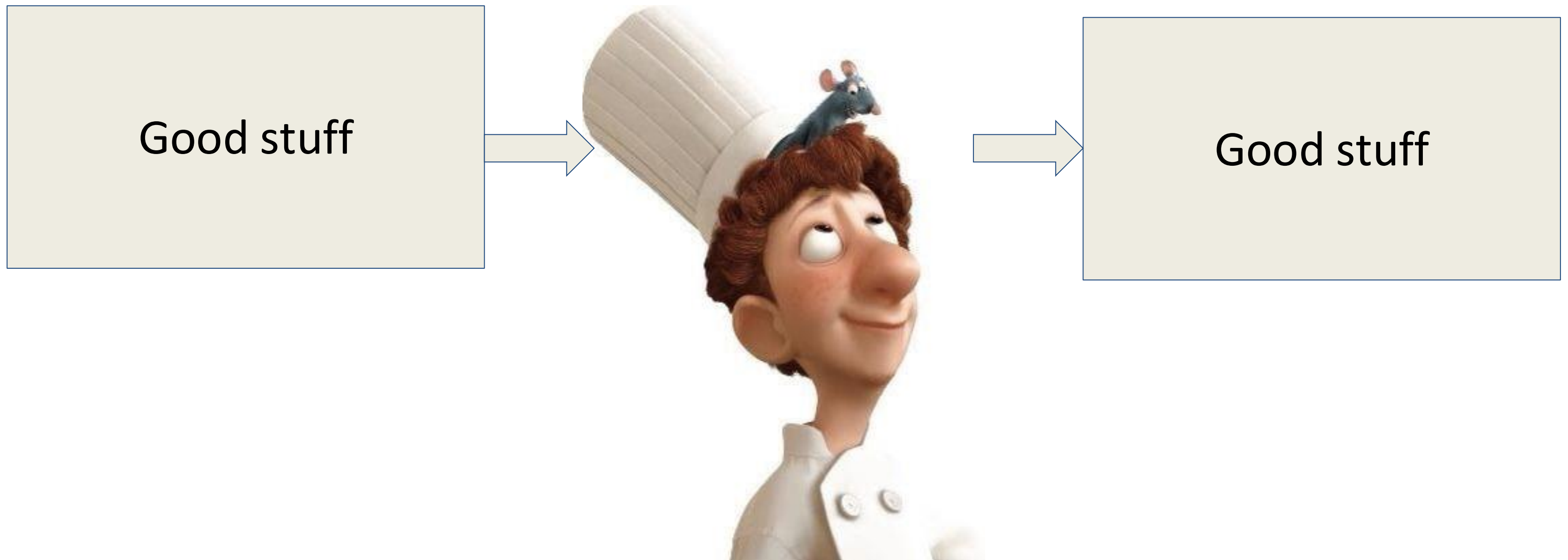
Identify an idea or problem

-Local problem

-Question from the literature

<h2>Identify an idea or problem</h2>	<p>-Local problem</p> <p>-Question from the literature</p>

What literature should I be monitoring?



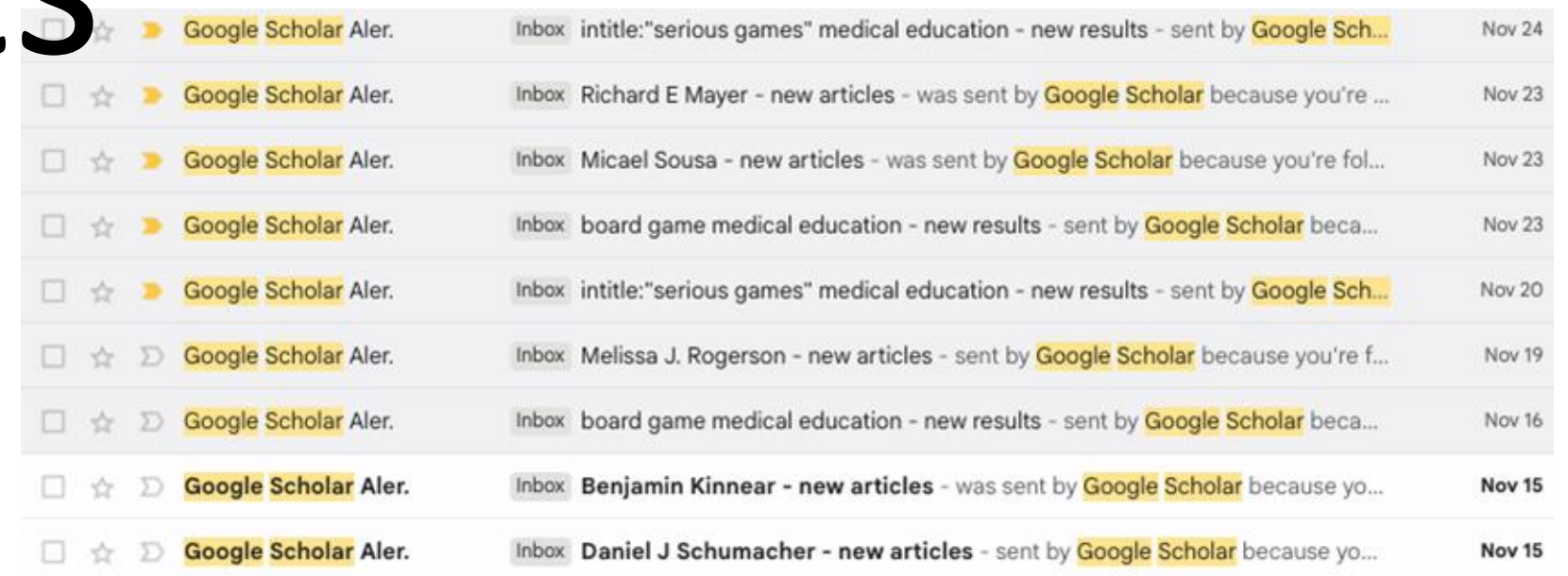
What literature should I be monitoring?

Email

-Google scholar alerts

-Journal TOC

-Specialty listservs



A screenshot of an email inbox showing a series of Google Scholar alerts. Each row represents an email entry with a checkbox, a star icon, a right-pointing arrow, the sender 'Google Scholar Aler.', the subject line, the sender name, and the date. The subject lines include phrases like 'intitle:"serious games" medical education - new results' and 'Richard E Mayer - new articles'.

<input type="checkbox"/>	☆	▶	Google Scholar Aler.	Inbox	intitle:"serious games" medical education - new results - sent by Google Sch...	Nov 24
<input type="checkbox"/>	☆	▶	Google Scholar Aler.	Inbox	Richard E Mayer - new articles - was sent by Google Scholar because you're ...	Nov 23
<input type="checkbox"/>	☆	▶	Google Scholar Aler.	Inbox	Micael Sousa - new articles - was sent by Google Scholar because you're fol...	Nov 23
<input type="checkbox"/>	☆	▶	Google Scholar Aler.	Inbox	board game medical education - new results - sent by Google Scholar beca...	Nov 23
<input type="checkbox"/>	☆	▶	Google Scholar Aler.	Inbox	intitle:"serious games" medical education - new results - sent by Google Sch...	Nov 20
<input type="checkbox"/>	☆	▶	Google Scholar Aler.	Inbox	Melissa J. Rogerson - new articles - sent by Google Scholar because you're f...	Nov 19
<input type="checkbox"/>	☆	▶	Google Scholar Aler.	Inbox	board game medical education - new results - sent by Google Scholar beca...	Nov 16
<input type="checkbox"/>	☆	▶	Google Scholar Aler.	Inbox	Benjamin Kinnear - new articles - was sent by Google Scholar because yo...	Nov 15
<input type="checkbox"/>	☆	▶	Google Scholar Aler.	Inbox	Daniel J Schumacher - new articles - sent by Google Scholar because yo...	Nov 15

Journal or other podcasts

Podcasts



All of the below podcasts can be found on *Medical Education's* [iTunes page](#), with new podcasts added each month! To receive them all, please subscribe.

2025

November (Volume 59, Issue 11)

Immersive virtual reality training: Addressing challenges and unlocking potentials

Read the accompanying article

From challenge to growth: Exploring physician narratives of patient complaints during residency

Read the accompanying article

October (Volume 59, Issue 10)

Artificial intelligence and gender equity: An integrated approach for health professional education by Margaret Bearman and Rola Ajjawi

Read the accompanying article

Uncertainty experienced by newly qualified doctors during the transition to internship by Molly Dineen

Read the accompanying article

September (Volume 59, Issue 9)

Seeking medical wisdom: Development of a physician-defined practical model of wise competence - An interview with James N. Woodruff

All episodes-list

Episode	Duration
#78 - Wrapping Papers (from 2024)	43:06
#77 - Holiday Episode 2024 - Quirky Papers	23:12
#76 - A review on modern teaching and learning techniques in medical education	34:30
#75 - Hot for Teacher	39:55
#74 - Methods Consult - What type of literature review should I do?	18:21
#73 - Does first impression 'matter' -and does it matter if I think about it?	36:51
#72 - Is This Program Competency-based?	21:12
#71 - UPDATES FROM THE PAPERs PODCAST	21:05

Other social media

Anthony R. Artino, Jr. • 1st
Associate Dean for Educational Research a...
1d • 🌐

🎉 It's finally out ahead of print! 🎉

After a very long road, our Scholarly Perspective on the overreliance on student satisfaction surveys in **#MedEd** is now officially published in *Academic Medicine* (ahead of print).

In this piece, my coauthors and I take a hard look at how satisfaction surveys—especially student evaluations of teaching—have come to play an outsized role in faculty promotion and medical school accreditation, despite decades of evidence highlighting their limitations and biases. We argue it's time for a more holistic, evidence-informed approach to evaluating teaching and educational quality.

The short summary video below breaks down our core arguments.

Link to the full **#OpenAccess** article here: <https://lnkd.in/etmkNUjV>

Let the debate begin! 🔥

Social media screenshot

ASE Anatomical Sciences Education
1,241 followers
3w • 🌐

Happy **#FreshFriday!**

➔ Community building through play: Development and design of a board ...more

ASE Anatomical Sciences Education

Community building through play: Development and design of a board game for review in an undergraduate anatomy course

KRISTIN STOVER, VANESSA KRIUK, JENNA KUCZEK

#FRESHFRIDAY FRESH OFF THE PRESSES

ASE Anatomical Sciences Education

Body habitus considerations in US anatomical body donation programs— Perspectives and practices from program guidelines

SOPH MYERS-KELLEY, JENNA HAGERTY, HEIDI REIS, KERRY SEWELL, SOPHIE ORR, MAUREEN HELGREN, REBECCA L. PEARL, MARISA LANGTON, MALLI BARREMKALA

#FRESHFRIDAY FRESH OFF THE PRESSES

Arthur Lau Chin Haeng and 9 others

1 repost

Academic Pediatrics
267 followers
21h • 🌐

What has been the impact of preference and geographic signaling on interview and match outcomes?

Data from 10 in programs in the Midwest were analyzed showing a significant impact of preference signaling. Candidates in a "matchable" rank position with preference signaling had 8.75x higher odds of matching at a program compared to those without preference signaling.

Read more here: <https://lnkd.in/g2FuKvQG>

By: Rebecca Hart, MD, MSc, **Keith Ponitz, MD**, Fizza Ihsan, **Sabrina Ben-Zion, MD**

Proportion of Interviewees who Matched: No Signal, Geographic Signal, Preference Signal

Category	Without PS	With PS	With GS
Overall	~3%	~14%	~6%
URIM	~6%	~10%	~5%
MD	~2%	~13%	~5%
DO	~4%	~14%	~6%
IMG	~5%	~19%	~6%
Couples Match	~2%	~12%	~4%
Local	~14%	~32%	~18%

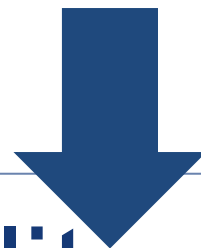
1 comment

Like Comment Repost

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Identify an idea or problem



Perform a literature review

- Review prior publications
- Conceptual framework

How does this question fit into the literature?

Draft the introduction now!

Problem/Gap/Hook

Hey should we be starting with a lit review?

JGME Literature Review Series

This series provides an overview of 8 influential approaches to knowledge synthesis: Systematic Reviews, Realist Reviews, Narrative Reviews, Scoping Reviews, State-of-the-Art, Critical Reviews, Meta-ethnographic Reviews, and Integrative Reviews. For each literature review, 2 articles are provided: (1) an overview of the review type with background information on philosophical foundations, purposes, and expected products for readers and researchers, and (2) a short article with steps that outline the "nuts and bolts" of this type of review.

Introduction to the JGME Literature Review Series

Anna MacLeod, PhD; Robin Parker, MLIS; Lara Varpio, PhD

Literature Reviews: Key Considerations and Tips From Knowledge Synthesis Librarians

Robin Parker, MLIS; Lindsey Sikora, MIST

Understanding the Differences That Differentiate: A Model for Deciding Which Literature Review to Conduct

Lara Varpio, PhD; Robin Parker, MLIS; Anna MacLeod, PhD

Systematic Review

Systematic Reviews in Medical Education

Lauren A. Maggio, PhD; Anita Samuel, PhD; Elizabeth Stellrecht, MLS

A Reader's Guide to Medical Education Systematic Reviews

Elizabeth Stellrecht, MLS; Anita Samuel, PhD; Lauren A. Maggio, PhD

Objectivist or Subjectivist?

Objectivist research seeks to create knowledge that is not influenced by an individual's perceptions or understandings

“Are skills-based programs effective for reducing resident burnout?” - Systematic review

Subjectivist orientation aims to understand the meaning that people make about an experience or phenomenon

How theories of intersectionality could offer important insights into the literature on burnout - Critical review

Objectivist

Systematic: Synthesis of the evidence to answer a specific research question

Realist: Unpack the patterns of context-mechanism-outcome relationships: “*what works for whom under what circumstances*”

Narrative -Scoping: Map the depth and breadth of emerging topics

Narrative - Critical: narrative synthesis critiquing literature based on outside theory or literature from another field.

Subjectivist



ChatGPT and Other Large Language Models in Medical Education

— 
Alexandra Aster¹  · Matthias Carl Laupichler¹  · Tamina Rockwell-Kollmann¹ · Gilda Masala¹ · Ebru Bala¹ · Tobias Raupach¹ 

What is the extent of publications regarding LLMs in medical education 1 year after the release of the most prominent LLM, ChatGPT?

Scoping: Map the depth and breadth of emerging topics

RQ₁: What is the extent of publications regarding LLMs in medical education 1 year after the release of the most prominent LLM, ChatGPT?

RQ₂: What specific themes do publications exploring the utilization of LLMs in medical education focus on?

RQ₃: What is the relation of empirical research to theoretical/conceptual publications regarding LLMs in medical education?



medical education

MEDICAL EDUCATION IN REVIEW |

 **Open Access**



Optimising the delivery of remediation programmes for doctors:

Address the complexity of remediation for practising doctors by developing a theory of how remediation is supposed to work, for whom and the contexts that lead to different outcomes.

Unpack the patterns of context-mechanism-outcome relationships: “*what works for whom under what circumstances*”

Our aim was to address the complexity of remediation for practising doctors by developing a theory of how remediation is supposed to work, for whom and the contexts that lead to different outcomes.

Scoping reviews in medical education:

Lauren A. Maggio¹   | Kelsey Larsen²  | Aliko Thomas³  |
Joseph A. Costello⁴  | Anthony R. Artino Jr.⁵ 

What are the characteristics of the scoping reviews and how can they be improved?



Effectiveness of Escape Room in Medical Education:

Authors: [Yuxuan He](#), [Xiaomei Chen](#), [Huijuan Ma](#), [Rongrong Zhao](#), [Houxiu Zhou](#) , and [Yanni Yang](#)   | [AUTHORS INFO & AFFILIATIONS](#)

Publication: Games for Health Journal • <https://doi.org/10.1089/g4h.2023.0070>

 464 / 13

 [Permissions & Citations](#)



 [GET ACCESS](#)

Overall, escape rooms had a more significant positive effect than traditional learning on knowledge (standardized mean difference [SMD]: 0.84; 95% confidence interval [CI]: 0.36–1.33)

Who can help?

1. Select Appointment Type:

➤ Research Assistance, Citation Management, and Using the Library

▼ Systematic Review

Meet with a librarian to discuss search strategy and next steps for a systematic review research study.

Not sure if you're doing a systematic review? Please see our [Systematic Review Guide](#) for details.

If you need help with a non-systematic literature search or review, please schedule a [Research Assistance](#) appointment above.

Systematic Review (50 minutes)

No preference

Andrew Hamilton ⓘ

Laura Zeigen ⓘ

Marijane White ⓘ

Scientific Data Management

2. Select Date:

🕒 Dec 2025 🕒

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

3. Select Time:

Monday, December 8, 2025

Time Zone: Pacific Time - US & Canada ([change](#))

2:00pm

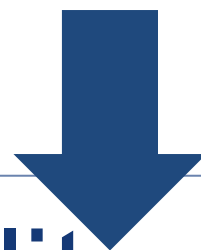
3:00pm

4:00pm

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Identify an idea or problem



Perform a literature review

- Review prior publication
- Conceptual framework**



Medical Education Flamingo, MD, ...   ...

@MedEdFlamingo

It's the main reason why my papers are rejected by Kevin Eva: "With no conceptual framework (see Bordage, 2009) included in this paper it is difficult to determine what fundamental advance in knowledge is offered by the results."

Conceptual frameworks

- Ways of thinking about a problem or a study
- Ways of representing how complex things work



https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:%E5%AE%88%E8%AD%B7%E6%B5%B7%E7%96%86_Fuguijiao_Lighthouse_at_night.jpg



https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Magnifying_glass_on_the_page_of_a_book.jpg

- Theories that been confirmed by observations or experiments
- Models derived from theories, observations or sets of concepts
- Evidence-based best practices derived from outcome and effectiveness studies

Where can I find a theory?

Education Theory Made Practical (Volume 1): An ALiEM Faculty Incubator eBook Project

Aug 18, 2017 | [Incubators](#), [Medical Education](#), [Professional Development](#)

By: [Teresa Chan, MD, MHPE](#)

The ALiEM Team is happy to announce yet another eBook publication: the first volume in the *Education Theory Made Practical* series. This book was a labor of love written by the inaugural 2016-17 Faculty Incubator class. We are so very proud of all our Faculty Incubator alumni who made this happen. Their hard work has been compiled in this FREE, peer-reviewed eBook. We sincerely feel that it will be useful for all the educators out there, wrestling with the issue of integrating theory into practice.



MedEdMentor

[Theory Database](#) / [Filter & Explore](#) / [Educator's Portfolio Categories](#)

 MedEdMentor

SCHOLARSHIP

 Literature Search

 Theory Suggester

REFERENCE

 Theory Database

 Lessons

 Glossary

Curriculum Development and Evaluation

This category involves the planning, implementation, and evaluation of educational curricula. It also includes revising existing curricula to meet new educational standards or needs.

[12 Principles of Meaningful Learning](#)

The 12 principles of meaningful learning emphasize the role of the brain, mind, and environment in shaping effective learning experiences.

[14 Points for Motivation](#)

Fourteen points for motivation theory emphasizes the importance of motivation in the learning process and provides a set of guidelines for educators to maximize student engagement.

[3-P Model](#)

The 3-P model highlights the interrelationship between presage, process, and product in the context of health professional education.

[4-Component Instructional Design Model](#)

💡 Relevant Theories

Here are the top theories for your research phenomenon:

🔒 #1 Most Relevant Theory

1 paper

🌟 [Unlock top theory with Project Pass](#)

💡 Resilience Potentials

1 paper ▾

💡 Serious Games Theory

1 paper ▾

💡 Non-Technical Skills (NTS)

1 paper ▾

more

Enhancing Educational Scholarship Through Conceptual Frameworks: A Challenge and Roadmap for Medical Educators

Matthew W. Zackoff, MD; Francis J. Real, MD, MEd; Erika L. Abramson, MD, MS; Su-Ting T. Li, MD, MPH; Melissa D. Klein, MD, MEd; Maryellen E. Gusic, MD**



Journal of Application for Scholarly Education Research

Curriculum

Simulation

Learning with competing distractions

Cognitive load theory ¹²	Sweller, Van Merriënboer, and Paas	Cognitive psychology	conscious attentional control. Careful attention to instructional design can be used to reduce the cognitive load in learners; heavy cognitive load can have a negative impact on task completion.	Use of low-fidelity simulation to focus on mastery of a specific task prior to practice in the clinical environment
Self-directed learning ¹³	Knowles	Cognitive psychology	This process allows learners to take the initiative in diagnosing their learning needs, formulating goals, identifying human and material resources, and evaluating learning outcomes.	Individualized learning plans Tracking of self-directed learning goals and attainment
Social cognitive theory ¹⁴	Bandura	Cognitive psychology	People learn from one another by observing and imitating others' behavior: Pay attention. Retain what you observed. Reproduce the modeled behavior. Remain motivated to continue to imitate the behavior.	Shadowing program Tracking observed behaviors, incorporating them into practice, planning their use in the future
Self-regulated learning ¹⁵	Zimmerman and Schunk	Cognitive psychology	Learners plan, monitor, and evaluate their own learning to achieve a goal.	Individualized learning plan Tracking self-directed learning goals and attainment
Reflective practice ¹⁶	Schon	Cognitive psychology	<i>Reflection in action:</i> Experience and reflect on an experience during an event. Decide how to act. Act. <i>Reflection on action:</i> Reflect after an event. Think about what you might do differently. Use new perspectives to process feelings and actions.	Debriefings, reflective writing activities Assess for implementation of identified changes following debriefings
Self-determination theory ¹⁷	Deci and Ryan	Cognitive psychology	People have 3 basic needs, which, if met, lead to enhanced self-motivation, performance, personal growth, and vitality. These needs are <i>competence, autonomy, and relatedness</i> .	Problem-based learning, small group learning activities Impact of hypothetical clinical scenario vs anchoring in shared experience
Experiential learning cycle ¹⁸	Kolb	Cognitive psychology	Learning happens through a transforming experience via a 4-stage learning cycle: <i>concrete experience, reflective observation, abstract conceptualization, and active experimentation</i> .	Simulation-based curriculum Impact of a structured debrief followed by time for practice prior to further simulation
Situated learning—guided participation ¹⁹	Vygotsky	Sociology	Instructors develop activities to promote more independent learning over time.	Workshops Learning following didactic vs interactive session

(continued on next page)

Theoretical Frameworks for Studying the Impact of Escape Game Elements on Education

Framework	Why It Fits Escape Games in Education	How You Could Use It in a Study	Best For
Self-Determination Theory (SDT)	Escape games support autonomy (choice), competence (puzzles), and relatedness (teamwork), which drive intrinsic motivation.	Measure how escape-game elements satisfy SDT needs and how this predicts motivation, engagement, and learning.	Motivation, learner persistence
Cognitive Load Theory (CLT)	Escape games add complexity, time limits, and problem solving—helping or hindering cognitive processing.	Identify which elements increase extraneous vs germane load; test cognitive load as a mediator between design and outcomes.	Cognitive performance, instructional design
Experiential Learning Theory (Kolb ELT)	Escape games provide hands-on, iterative problem solving aligned with the experiential learning cycle.	Map game activities to concrete experience → reflection → conceptualization → active experimentation.	Skills application, active learning

Kolb's Experiential Learning Theory

Kolb's Experiential Learning model involves four stages: concrete experiences, reflective observation, abstract conceptualization, & active experimentation. It suggests that individuals learn best when actively engaged in the process, rather than passively receiving information.

Written: February 2, 2022

Authors: Jennifer Fermin, MD; Tiffany Moadel, MD; Michael Cassara, DO

Editors: Geoffrey V. Stetson, MD

Noted Theory Originators

David A. Kolb

Summary

Experiential learning theory applies 4 steps to emphasize that learning is a process in which knowledge is continually shaped and evolved through experiences and is not simply static content

Described In

1. Kolb, D. (1984). *Experiential learning*. Prentice Hall.
2. Kolb, Alice, and David A. Kolb. *Kolb Learning Style Inventory: LSI Workbook*. HayGroup, 2013.

Applied In

1. Sheng, A. Y., Chu, A., Biancarelli, D., Drainoni, M. L., Sullivan, R., & Schneider, J. I. (2018). A Novel Web-Based Experiential Learning Platform for Medical Students (Learning Moment): Qualitative Study. *JMIR medical education*, 4(2), e10657. <https://doi.org/10.2196/10657>
2. Tang Girdwood, S., Treasure, J., Zackoff, M., & Klein, M. (2019). Implementation, Evaluation, and Improvement of Pediatrics Residents-as-Teachers Elective Through Iterative Feedback. *Medical science educator*, 29(2), 375–378. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40670-019-00715-3>
3. DeCoux V. M. (1990). Kolb's Learning Style Inventory: a review of its applications in nursing research. *The Journal of nursing education*, 29(5), 202–207. <https://doi.org/10.3928/01484834-19900501-04>
4. Schultz, K., McEwen, L., & Griffiths, J. (2016). Applying Kolb's Learning Cycle to Competency-Based Residency Education. *Academic Medicine*.

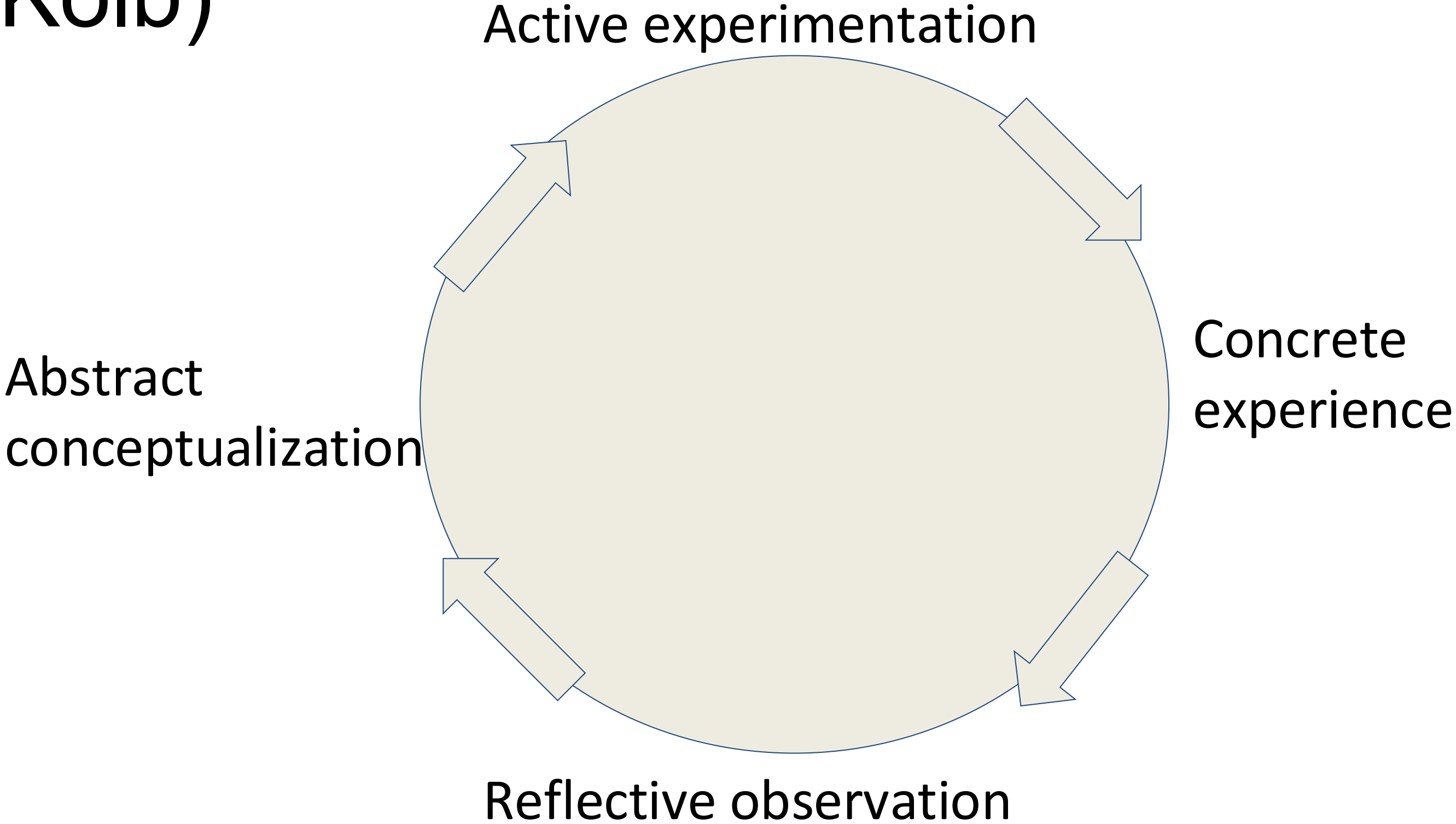


Implementation, Evaluation, and Improvement of Pediatrics Residents-as-Teachers Elective Through Iterative Feedback

Sonya Tang Girdwood¹ · Jennifer Treasure² · Matthew Zackoff³ · Melissa Klein⁴

- Residents as teacher curriculum
- Different teaching methods used
- Generally increased confidence post interventions

Residents as teachers (Kolb)

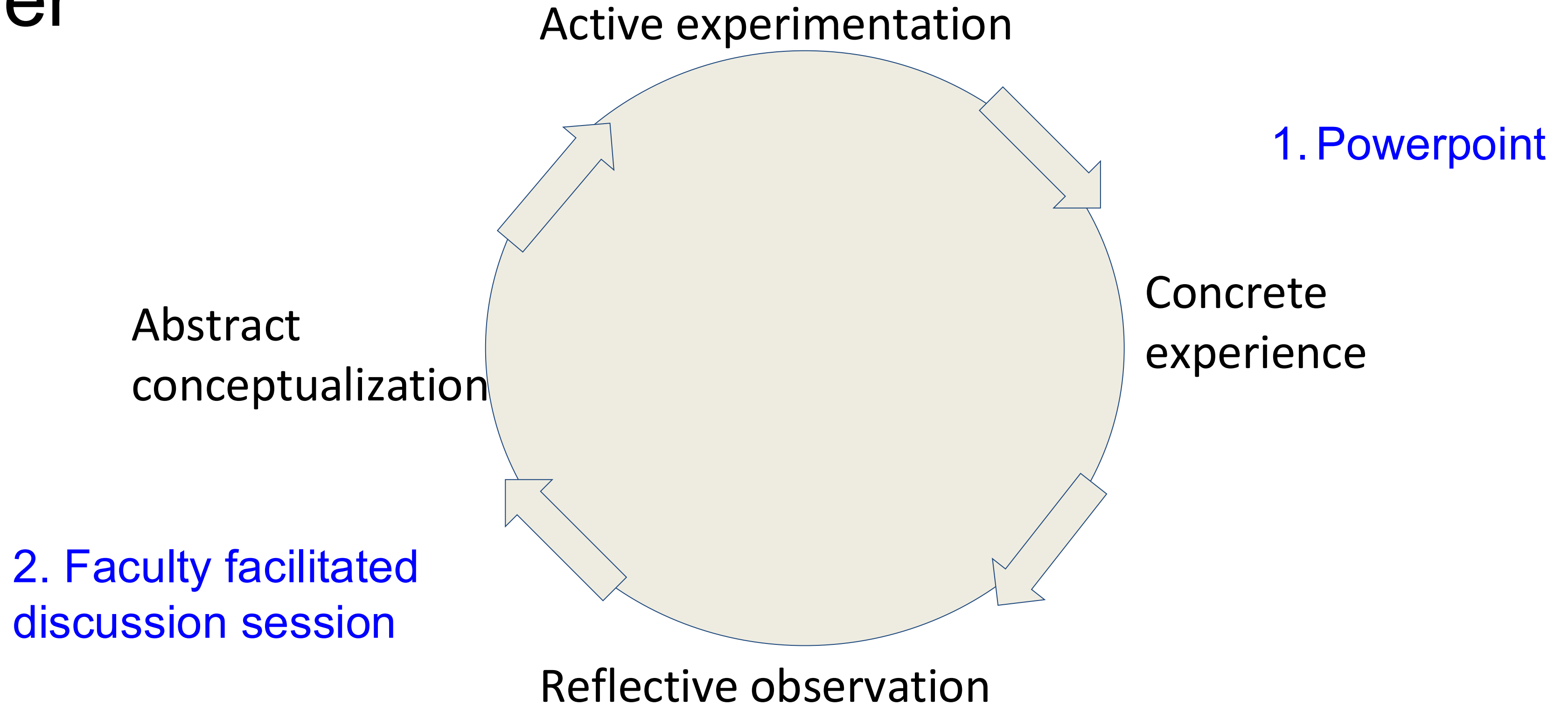


Hypothesis

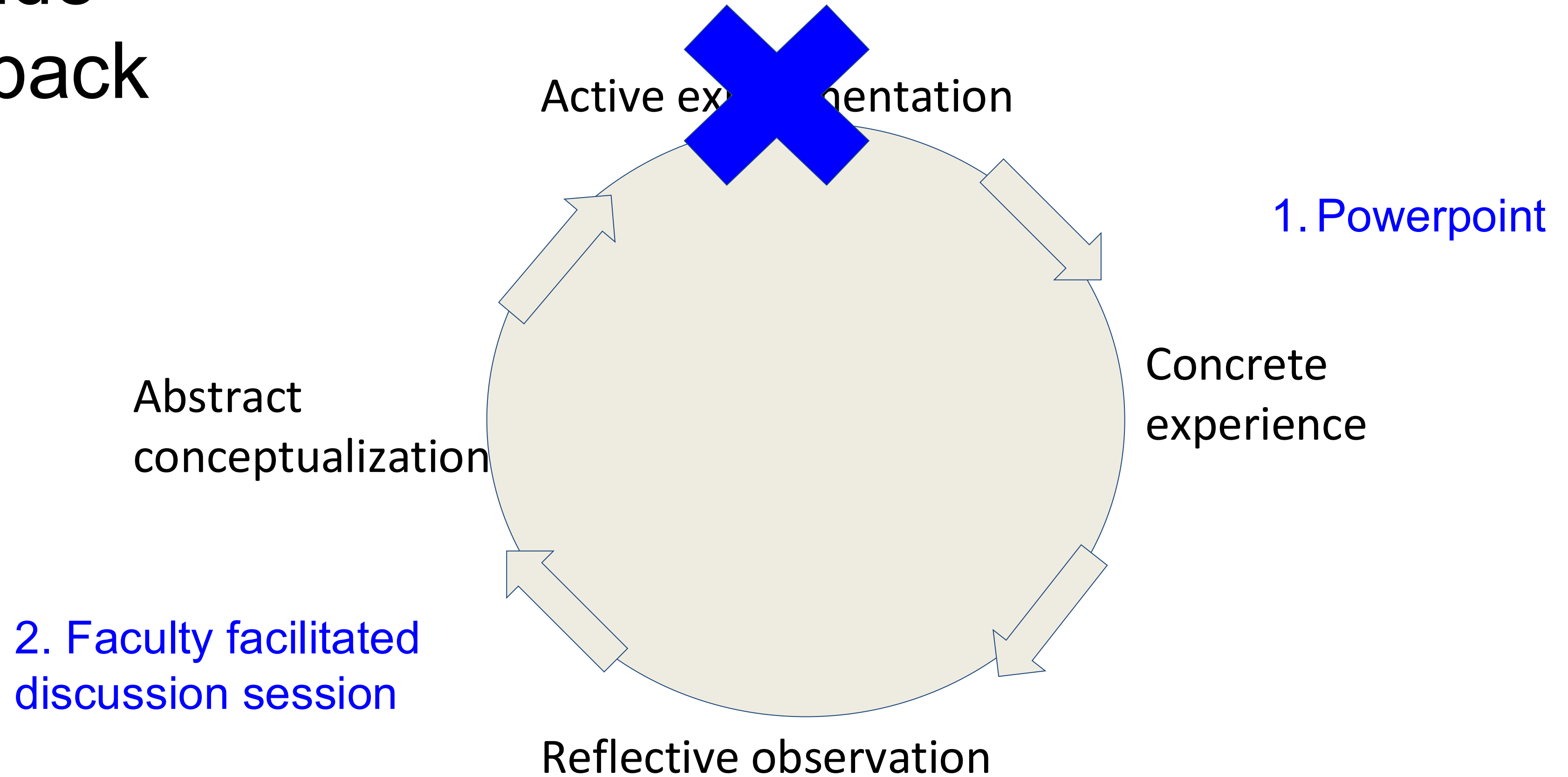
Curricular components with active experimentation would lead to increased self-assessed competence compared to components without active experimentation

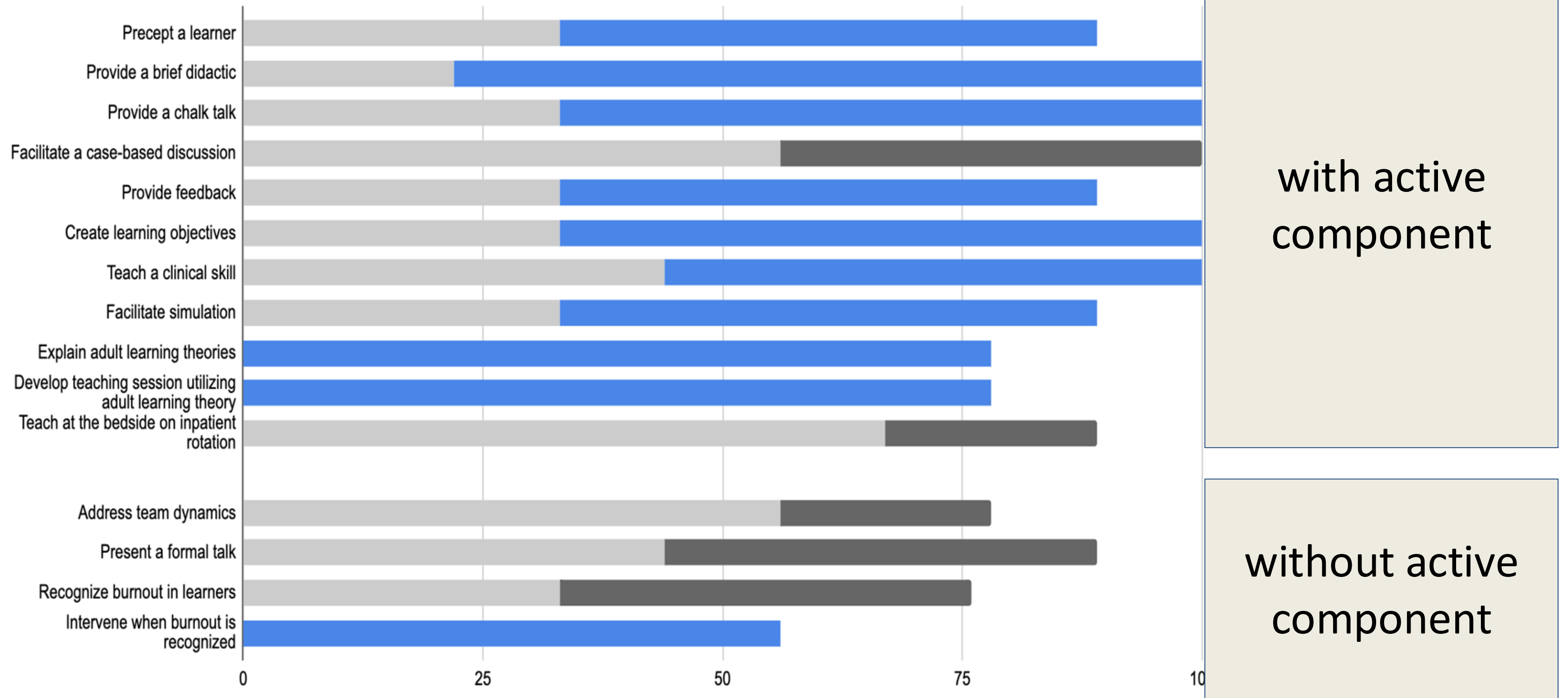
Precept a learner

3. Precept students in primary care



Provide feedback

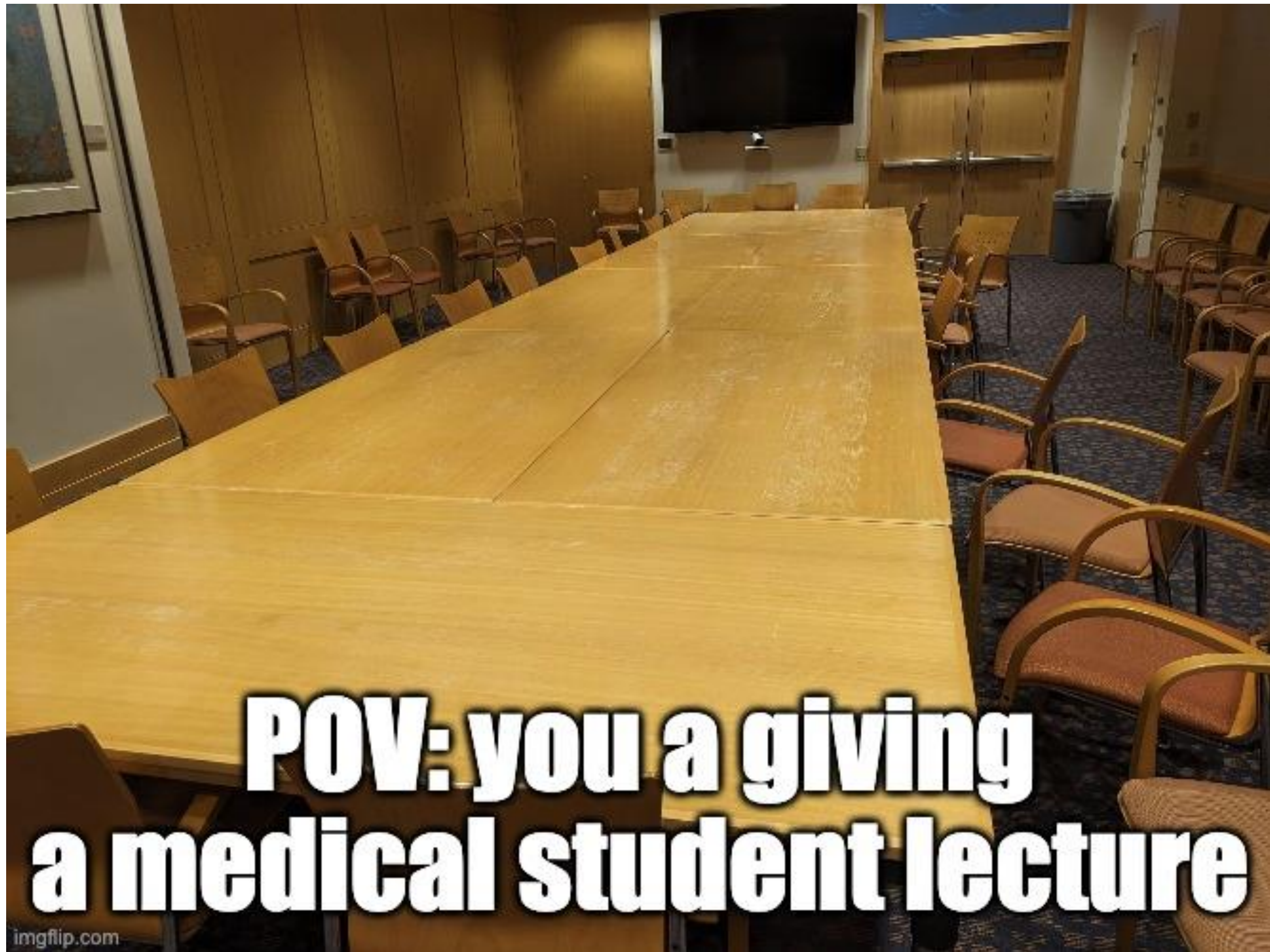




Statistically significant improvement

Not statistically significant improvement

- Theory: An abstract set of interrelated ideas and concepts that help to organize the complexities of our reality.
- Theoretical Framework: The application of that abstract mental model (i.e., theory) to a real-world problem. It is what happens when you "map" a theory onto a specific research question or phenomenon.
- Conceptual Framework: This is the rationale for applying a particular theory to a particular problem. It provides the argument, backed by literature review and methodology, to persuade an audience that the chosen approach is sound.



**POV: you a giving
a medical student lecture**

Kern's six steps

- problem identification
- needs assessment of the learners
- educational goals and objectives
- instructional strategies
- implementation
- evaluation and feedback.

Failure to assess the specific needs of the community doctors

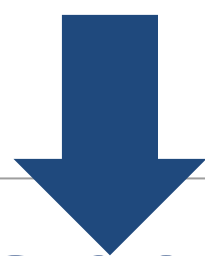
Use of passive instructional strategies during the CPD activities.

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Identify an idea or problem

Perform a literature review



Generate a **specific** research question

-FINER

Is this a research question or a research goal?

“How can support services for minority students entering college be improved?”

What data could I collect and what conclusions might I draw from these, that would help accomplish my goal?

“How do staff and administrators in the program believe that support services for minority students entering college can be improved?”

Feasible

Interesting and Important

Novel

Ethical

Relevant

Feasible

Is this question answerable with the resources you have available to you?

What question could I ask from the data I already have?



*There are natural
experiments everywhere for
those with the eyes to see*

-William Ostler (maybe)

Interesting and Important

Is this question interesting to you as the investigator as well as to the general health professions education community?

What would be the reasons to cite the results of this paper?

What would you write in next steps?

If you are not going to cite this then who?



Does this fit into a larger program of research?

Novel

Does the question add to the current body of knowledge?

Ethical

Can you answer this question without putting anyone at risk

Relevant

Does the answer to your question matter not only at your institution but also at others

Generating Good Research Questions in Health Professions Education

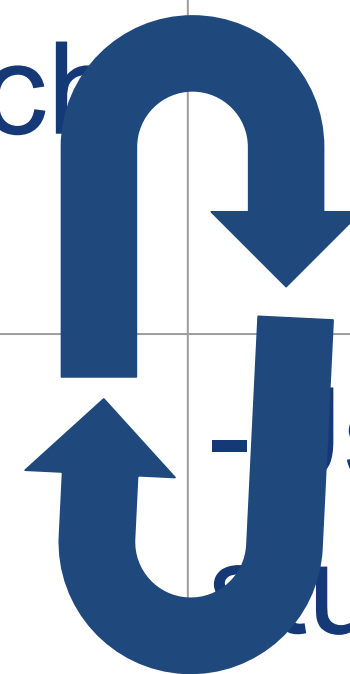
C. Jessica Dine, MD, MSHP, associate program director, Internal Medicine Residency Program, Judy A. Shea, PhD, associate dean, Medical Education Research, and Jennifer R. Kogan, MD, assistant dean, Faculty Development, Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania

Identify an idea or problem

Perform a literature review

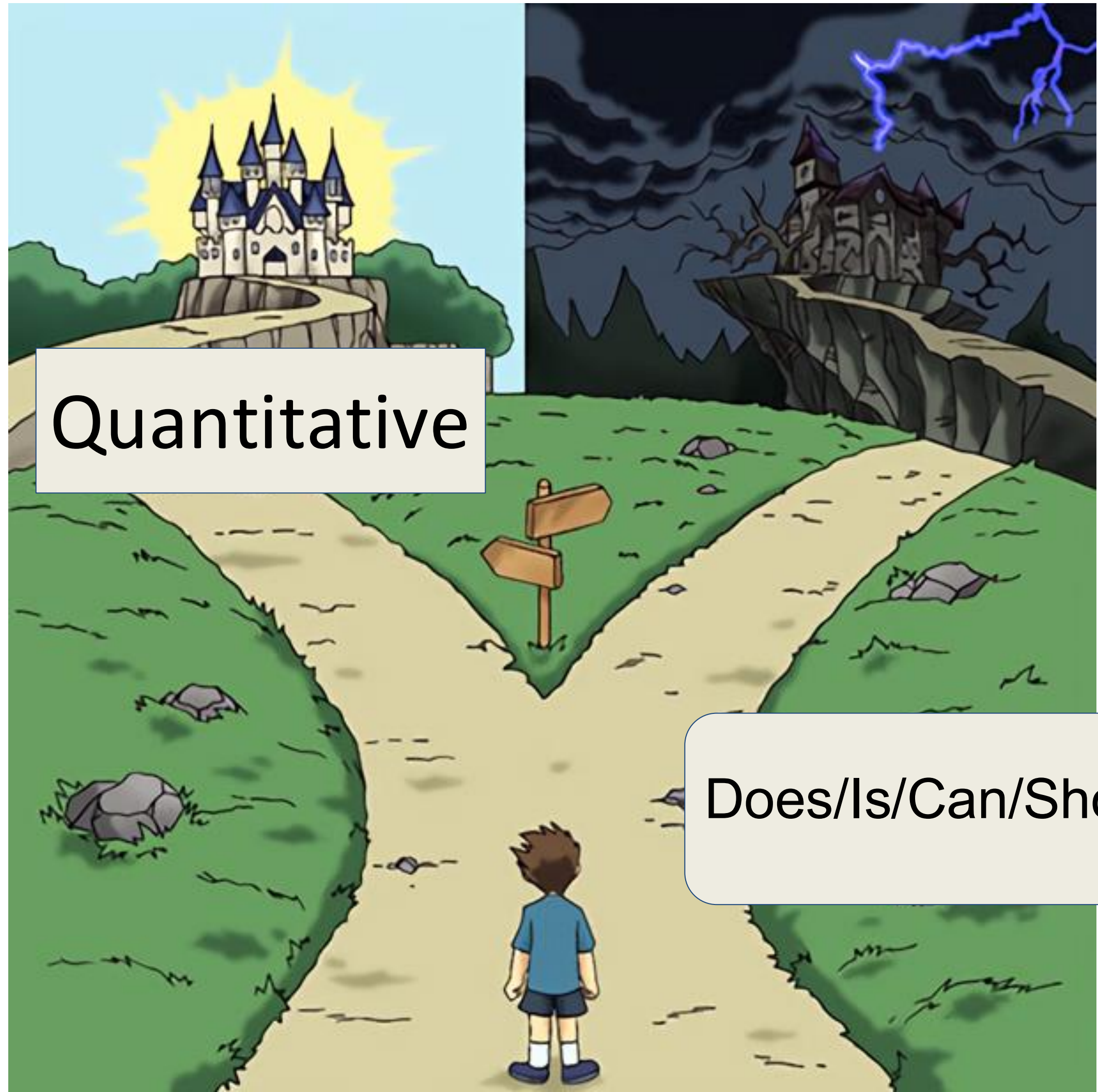
Generate a **specific** research question

Develop a study design



- Use common educational study designs

Interrogative question or verb question?



Quantitative

Does/Is/Can/Should?



Qualitative

What? Why?



Mixed

Quantitative

Qualitative

How?

Does self-debriefing in crisis resource management improve performance among anesthesiology residents?

Randomized Controlled Trial > Crit Care Med. 2011 Jun;39(6):1377-81.

doi: 10.1097/CCM.0b013e31820eb8be.

Looking in the mirror: self-debriefing versus instructor debriefing for simulated crises

What are ICU healthcare professionals' perceptions regarding the way acute medical crises affect team interactions?

> [J Interprof Care](#). 2009 May;23(3):273-85. doi: 10.1080/13561820802697818.

Interprofessional intensive care unit team interactions and medical crises: a qualitative study

Can learning style predict student satisfaction with different instruction methods and forecast academic achievement in medical education?

> [Adv Physiol Educ.](#) 2010 Dec;34(4):192-6. doi: 10.1152/advan.00075.2010.

Can learning style predict student satisfaction with different instruction methods and academic achievement in medical education?



What questions have similar methods asked?

Insert your title and/or abstract here: (or, click [here](#) to search using keywords)

PurposeIntroduction: Serious games are increasingly used in medicine to actively engage learners. Analog serious games are a non-digital form of serious games with specific purposes that go beyond entertainment. The design, creation, and affordability makes the analog format appealing to educators. This scoping review intends to scan and describe the literature pertaining to analog serious games over the last ten years.

Methods: We conducted a scoping review following the Arksey and O'Malley framework, searching three databases (Ovid MEDLINE, Embase, and CINAHL) for studies of analog serious games designed for physician-track learners published from January 2013 to December 2022. Studies designed or used to change their knowledge, skills, and attitudes were included. The authorship team met to calibrate, and then used two reviewers to screen the titles and abstracts, with discrepancies resolved by a third reviewer. After a calibration exercise, six reviewers independently completed extraction, with a request for a second look when cases were uncertain. The extracted data were analyzed for relevant themes and trends using simple descriptive statistics and then mapped to provide an overview of the field over the past decade.

Results: The search retrieved 3401 records. After excluding 773 duplicates, 2628

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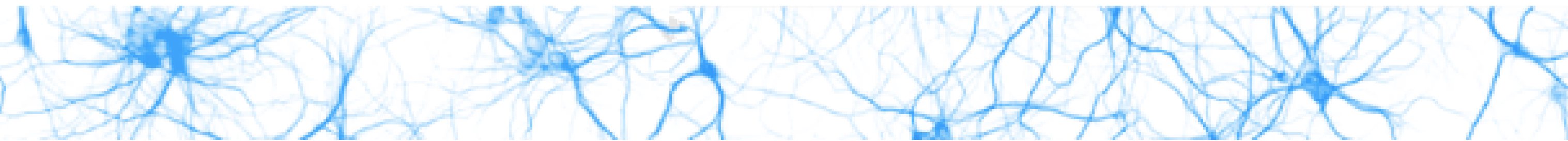
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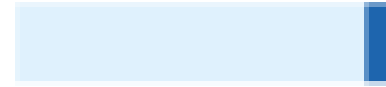
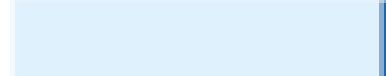
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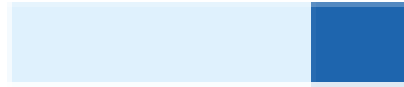


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Description, Clarification, or Justification?



medical education

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Description, justification and clarification: a framework for classifying the purposes of research in medical education

[David A Cook](#), [Georges Bordage](#), [Henk G Schmidt](#)

First published: 08 January 2008 | <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-2923.2007.02974.x> |

 VIEW METRICS

Description (What was done?)

Describes what was done or presents a new conceptual model. There is no comparison group. May be a description without assessment of outcomes, or a 'single-shot case study' (single-group, post-test only experiment)

Justification (Did it work?)

Makes comparison with another intervention with intent of showing that 1 intervention is better than (or as good as) another. Any experimental study design with a control (including a single-group study with pre- and post-intervention assessment) can do this.

Generally lacks a conceptual framework or model that can be confirmed or refuted based on results of the study

Clarification (How or Why did it work?)

Clarifies the processes that underlie observed effects. Often a controlled experiment, but could also use a case-control, cohort or cross-sectional research design. Much qualitative research also falls into this category.

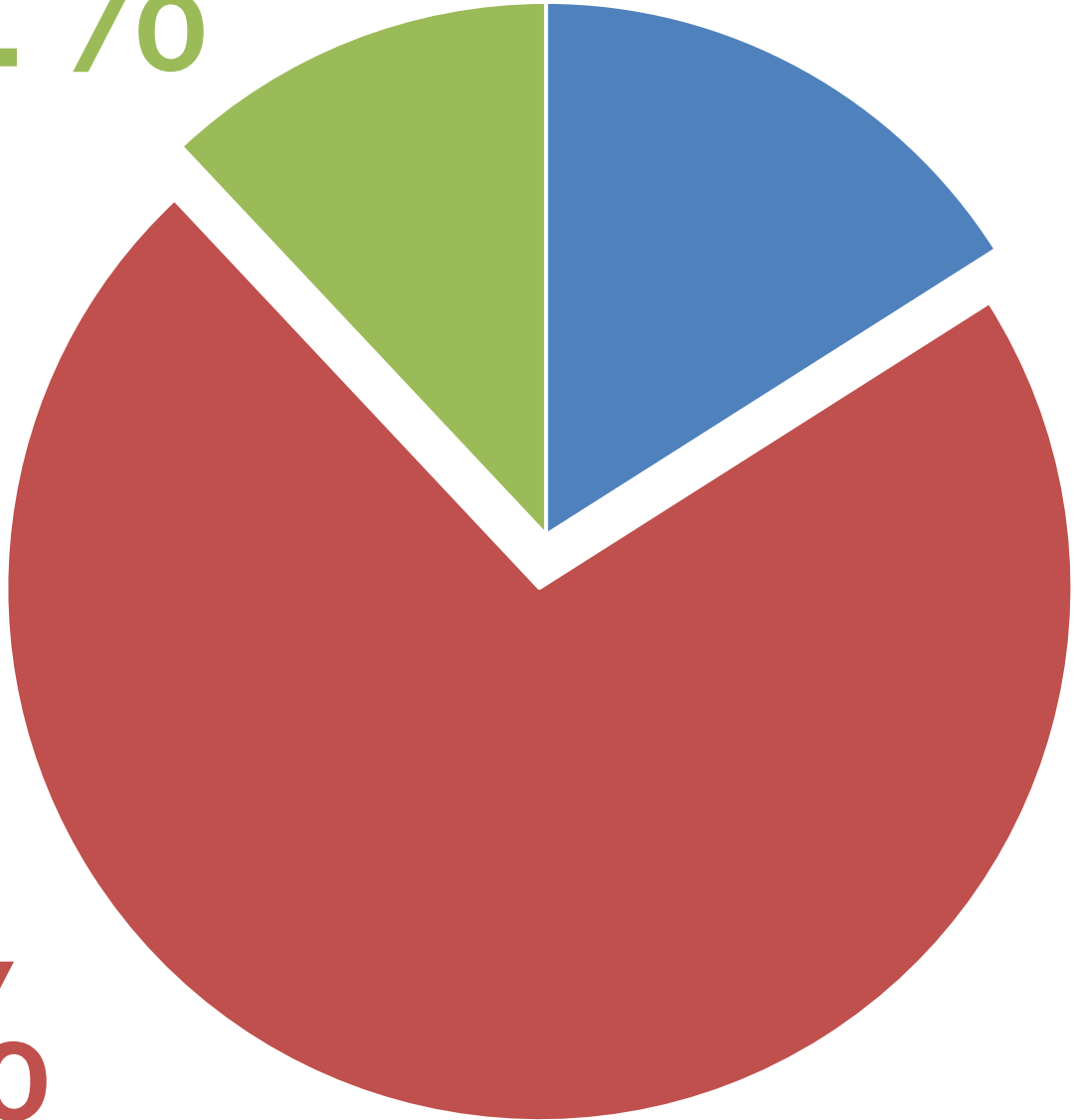
Its hallmark is the presence of a conceptual framework that can be confirmed or refuted by the results of the study

Experimental studies published in MedEd journals in 2003-04

Description 16%

Clarification 12%

Justification 72%



Homework!

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From: Navigating the research landscape: How paradigms shape health professions education research <https://doi.org/10.1111/medu.15752>

Compared to what?

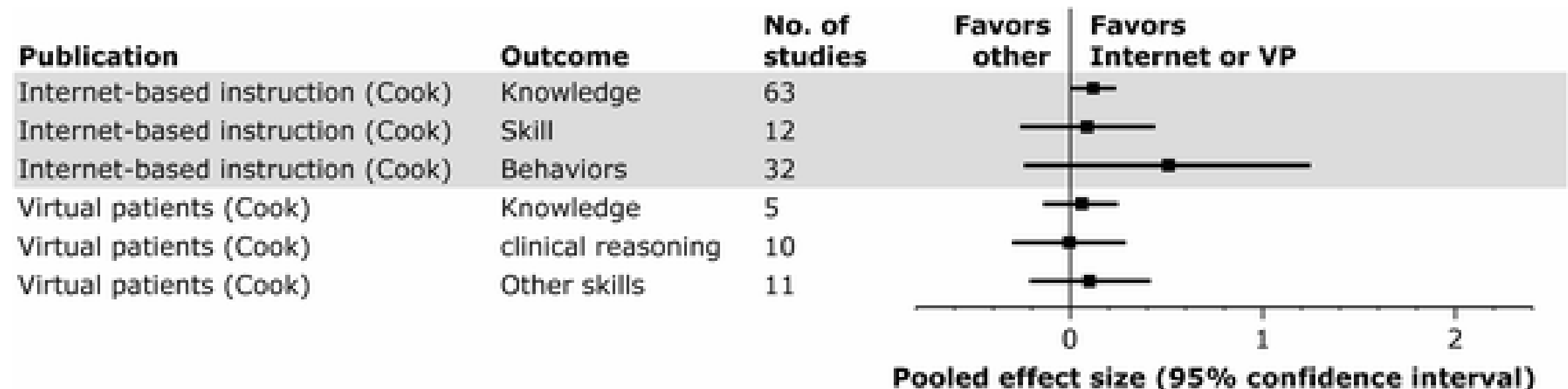
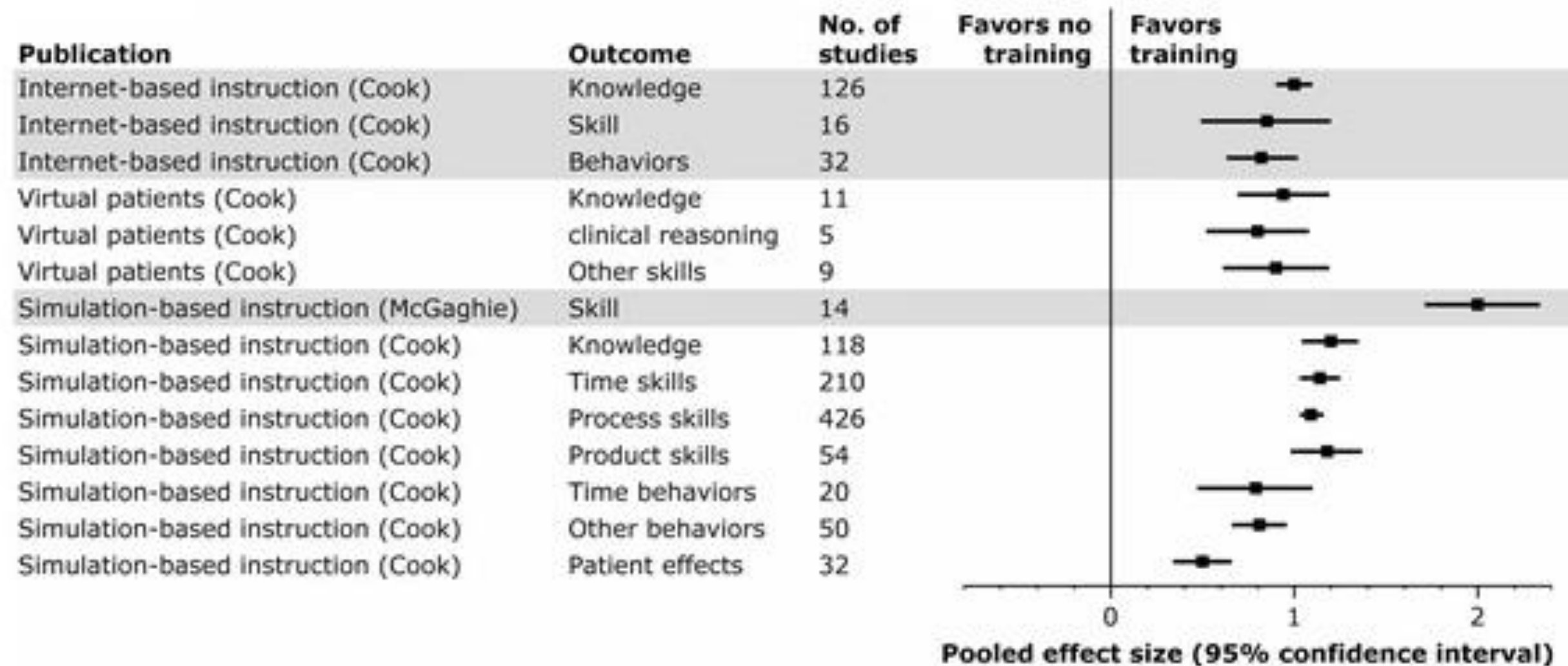
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If you teach them, they will learn: why medical education needs comparative effectiveness research

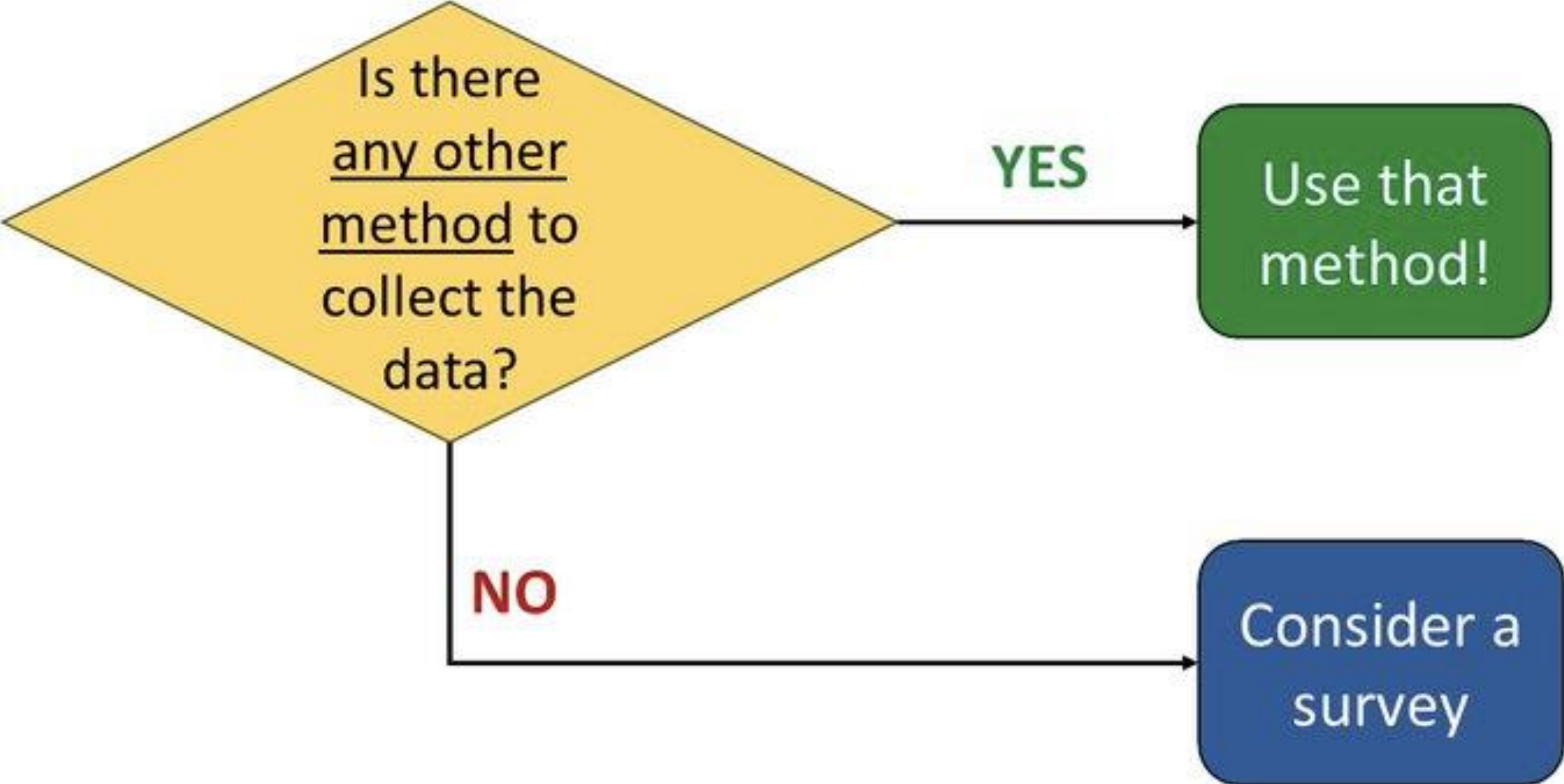
Editorial | Published: 14 June 2012

Volume 17, pages 305–310, (2012) [Cite this article](#)

Fig. 1



Should I do a survey?



**When is this
due?**

**Systematic review, clinical
trial you are pre-registering
your question**

**Qualitative study you might be working from
provisional questions refined in the process to
develop a hypothesis.**

Quantitative:

- Survey
- Post course design
- Before and after studies
- Controlled before and after
- Randomized controlled
- Longitudinal

Qualitative:

- Ethnography
- Phenomenology
- Grounded theory
- Case studies
- Action research

Are you going to
publish this?
Where?

The first was teaching and learning (green), which consisted of indicating words such as: students, model, faculty development, instruction. The second cluster was the quantitative or positivist (blue), which consisted of words such as: checklist, costs, performance assessment, and competency. Finally, there was also a psychosocial cluster (red), which consisted of words such as: attitude, behaviour, stress, and depression.

