KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION PROGRAM

ResearchWaste.info: Raising Awareness of Avoidable Waste in Health Research

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…and at least 56 collaborators, reviewers, peers, instructors, community members…

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ST. MICHAEL'S UNITY HEALTH TORONTO

Background – Declaration of Helsinki 2024

Scientific Requirements and Research Protocols

21. Medical research involving human participants must have a ***scientifically sound and rigorous design and execution*** that are ***likely to produce reliable, valid, and valuable knowledge and avoid research waste****. The research must conform to generally accepted scientific principles, be based on a thorough knowledge of the scientific literature, other relevant sources of information, and adequate laboratory and, as appropriate, animal experimentation.

    The welfare of animals used for research must be respected.

**Not scientific integrity, discussed in a different item*

What is (health) research waste? Working definition:

- 👉 Research found unhelpful by other researchers or knowledge users.
- 👉 Exclusive of outright misconduct (falsification, fabrication, plagiarism) but taps into “questionable/unacceptable research practices” (p-hacking, “spin”).
- 👉 A failure on part of “individuals, teams, and organizations involved” in research to implement the “design and execution that are likely to avoid” – MINUS (Rosengaard et al., 2024):

  - **M**ethodological flaws
  - **I**nvisibility
  - **N**egligible research
  - **U**nderreporting
  - **S**tructural barriers

85%

Glasziou, Chalmers, 2016

Methods – Thesis design

1. ***Aim 1. Scoping review***

Systematically map research waste studies/tools to identify methodological gaps.

Outputs: 2 peer-reviewed open access publications (protocol & report); an online, interactive, and printable evidence and gap map of studies and tools for assessing research waste; 1 plain-language summary; 1 workshop.

2. ***Aim 2. Key informant interviews & focus groups***

Collect input on research waste assessment needs from researchers, knowledge users, such as patient partners, healthcare providers, policy-makers.

Outputs: 1 peer-reviewed, open access publication; 1 presentation.

3. ***Aim 3. Tool development, pilot testing, and evaluation***

Integrate findings from Aims 1–2 to develop and test the tool.

Outputs: 1 peer-reviewed, open access publication; source software code; usage guide; webinar and online educational module; 1 presentation.

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Welcome

AWARE is a scoping review of Avoidable WAste in REsearch and a tool in development to inform academics, clinicians, patient and public partners, policy-makers, journal editors, and funders on how to reduce research waste in health and biomedical sciences.

Contribute

Help improve this doctoral research project at the University of Toronto and the SPOR Evidence Alliance. We will acknowledge all contributions in the final report.

Comment on Latest Paper

Results – Knowledge mobilization

Scoping Review

721 records
442 screened
6 abstracted

Living Search

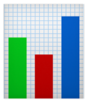
4163 articles found
2–3 new/week

Community Engagement

356 website visits
5927 LinkedIn views

Newsletters

Featured in:
SPOR Evidence Alliance
Centre for Global Health



Top Sectors

Healthcare (23%)
Research (16%)
Education (12%)

Top Locations

Toronto, Ontario (20%)
Copenhagen, Denmark (8%)
Vancouver, British Columbia (7%)

Face-to-face Talks

60 individuals: trainees, faculty, patient partners, admin staff

Results – Preliminary findings

Research waste assessment methods:

⚠️ **Are variable**
across studies

❌ **Are poorly reported**
in meta-research

❌ **Cover limited aspects**
of research waste

❌ **Lack comprehensive,**
user-friendly tools

❌ **Particularly problematic for**
patient and public partners

Thank you!