

NAVIGATING THROUGH THE WEB OF SCIENCE (OR WEB OF LIES)

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Evidence based medicine (EBM) refers to the conscientious, explicit, judicious and reasonable use of modern, best evidence in making decisions about the care of individual patients. The practice of EBM integrates clinical experience, patient values and the best available research information.¹

It adds up to the challenge to practice EBM when the best available scientific evidence is not available. Then there's an influx of predatory journals – fraudulent, deceptive pseudojournals which claim to be legitimate and scholarly but thrive on dishonesty, lack of transparency and exist for profit. When articles are published in predatory journals, they do not receive the benefit of peer review hence the danger of publishing inaccurate information.²

In this era of false stories that appear to be news, misinformation and disinformation, use of the correct evidence to combat the scourge of fake news is paramount. As researchers, we should fight misinformation and fight more for the correct information. We can do this through our continuing pursuit of the best available evidence, where information is not yet available.

There are values to swear by in this pursuit: truth, honesty, integrity, honor, and transparency. We need to navigate brilliantly through the web of science, lest we get drowned in a web of lies.

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In the interest of transparency, we are providing disclosures of potential conflicts of interest, current positions and professional affiliations of the members of the PIDSP Editorial Board 2022-2024:

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