Collaborative Learning Discussion 2

Discussion Topic - Case Study: Accuracy of information

My Summary Post

Although the data variable of nutrigenetics had been introduced into the initial post as a possible value which could be worthwhile for further research, having it as an argument to partially represent possible negative findings of nutritional values in this discovery may be difficult for Abi at this stage.

Saxton (2023) had three good discussion points surrounding nutrigenetics.
Firstly, Saxton (2023) suggests that “it may be unethical for Abi to assume that nutrigenetics plays a part in the overall negative results". I would argue that if the discovered data correlates ethically to appropriate nutrigenetics research and the correlation can be repeated with transparency and integrity, then there is basis for further investigation (Soehartono et al, 2022; Kanchan & Krishan, 2019). Although Abi is concerned about negative results, we do not know what that conclusion is based on. If it was based on the interpretation that Whizzz data indicates the nutritional value may lead to development of nutrition-related diseases such as obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, and hyperlipidemia (Khorraminezhad et al 2020), then this is significant and therefore ethical in behavior to raise awareness.

Secondly, Saxton (2023) enquires “If nutrigenetics were an overwhelming factor in all food testing then perhaps no food safety test would be reliable”. This is a very good and solid opinion because the process of food safety involves more than just one variable of data. The European Union follows the Novel Food Regulation (NFR) prior to bringing new products or ingredients intended for human consumption to the European market (de Boer & Bast, 2018). According to de Boer & Bast (2018), policies regarding food safety have been developed, but it is impossible to ensure that a food will never pose a risk to any consumer. De Boar & Bast (2018) also state that “a reasonable certainty that no harm will result from the intended uses”. Therefore, current approaches suggest that food safety tests have a variable of acceptance for human consumption.

Thirdly , Saxton (2023) proposes the idea that “nutrigenetics within the testing of individual food items may not be as large a factor”. I would agree with this statement and it seems to be the case for now, However, with the advancement of machine learning, data clustering and nutritional relationship interpretation, advances in this field of research is making substantial progress (Khorraminezhad et al 2020).

To conclude, it is possible that nutrigenetics may play a bigger part in the future of food safety testing which may further support the aim of institutional research centers. Those aims being to improve and maintain transparency and integrity which in turn will support ethical practices that provide the foundation to compliance and good legal practices.

References

de Boer, A. & Bast, A. (2018) Demanding safe foods–Safety testing under the novel food regulation (2015/2283). Trends in Food Science & Technology, 72: 125-133. Available from: https://www-sciencedirect-com.uniessexlib.idm.oclc.org/science/article/pii/S0924224417306817 [Accessed on 15th August 2023].

Kanchan, T. & Krishan, K. (2019) The Leiden manifesto and research assessment. Science and Engineering Ethics, 25(2): 643-644. Available from: https://link-springer-com.uniessexlib.idm.oclc.org/article/10.1007/s11948-017-0012-2 [Accessed on 15th August 2023].

Khorraminezhad, L., Leclercq, M., Droit, A., Bilodeau, J.F. & Rudkowska, I., (2020) Statistical and machine-learning analyses in nutritional genomics studies. Nutrients, 12(10): 3140. Available from: https://www.mdpi.com/2072-6643/12/10/3140 [Accessed on 15th August 2023].

Saxton, L. (2023) Peer Response | Collaborative Learning Discussion 2. University of Essex Online. Available from: https://www.my-course.co.uk/mod/forum/discuss.php?d=177503#p286559 [Accessed on 15th August 2023].

Soehartono, A.M., Yu, L.G. & Khor, K.A. (2022) Essential signals in publication trends and collaboration patterns in global Research Integrity and Research Ethics (RIRE). Scientometrics, 127(12): 7487-7497. Available from: https://link-springer-com.uniessexlib.idm.oclc.org/article/10.1007/s11192-022-04400-y [Accessed on 15th August 2023].