

# Getting data into REDCap with REDCapR

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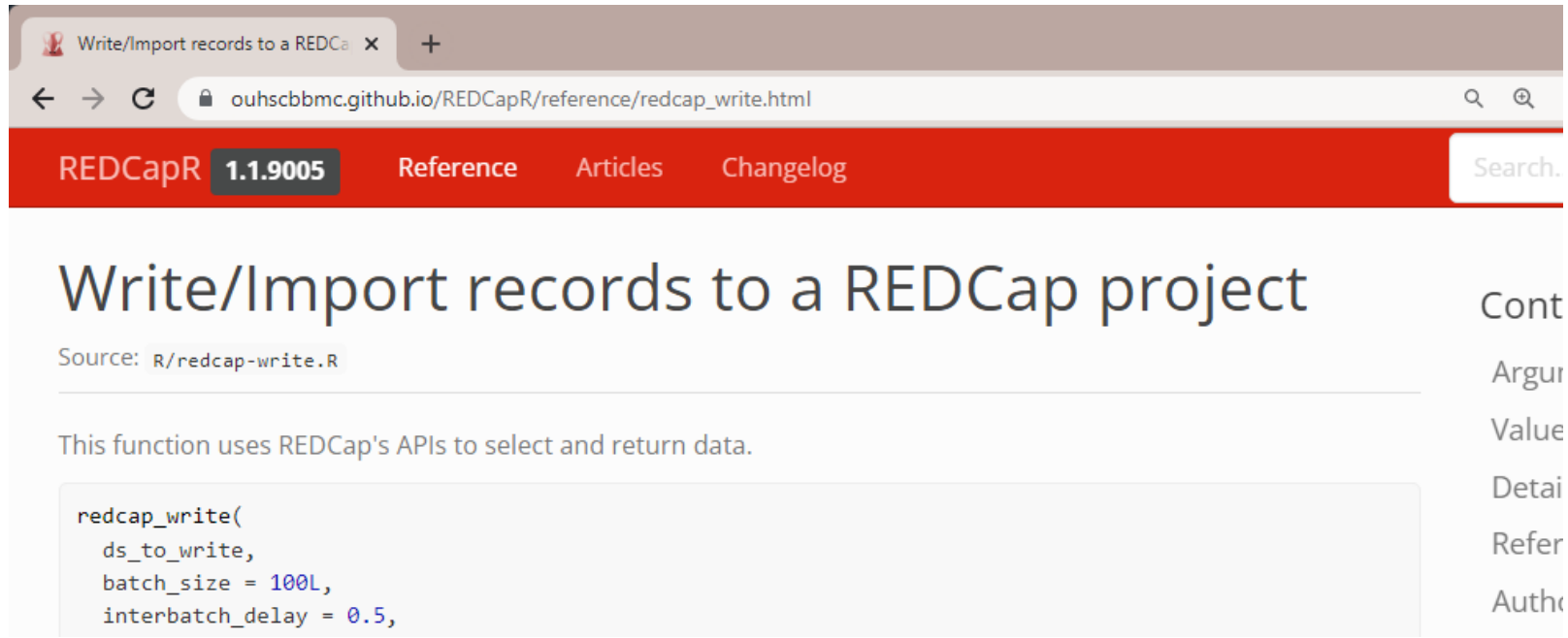
# Uploading vs Downloading?

- Writing data *to* REDCap is more difficult than reading data *from* REDCap.
- When you read, you receive data in the structure that the REDCap provides you.
- You have some control about the columns, rows, and data types, but there is not a lot you have to specify to avoid errors.
- In contrast, the structure of the dataset you send to the REDCap server must be precise.
- You need to pass special variables so that the REDCap server understands the hierarchical structure of the data points.

# Writing Itself is Easy

```
REDCapR::redcap_write(  
  ds_to_write           = ds_patient,  
  redcap_uri            = credential$redcap_uri,  
  token                 = credential$token,  
  convert_logical_to_integer = TRUE  
)
```

[https://ouhscbbmc.github.io/REDCapR/reference/redcap\\_write.html](https://ouhscbbmc.github.io/REDCapR/reference/redcap_write.html)



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL `ouhscbbmc.github.io/REDCapR/reference/redcap_write.html`. The page has a red header with the text "REDCapR 1.1.9005" and navigation links for "Reference", "Articles", and "Changelog". A search bar is located on the right side of the header. The main content area has the title "Write/Import records to a REDCap project" and the source "Source: R/redcap-write.R". Below this, a paragraph states: "This function uses REDCap's APIs to select and return data." A code block shows the function signature: `redcap_write(ds_to_write, batch_size = 100L, interbatch_delay = 0.5,`. On the right side, a partial table of contents is visible with links for "Cont", "Argu", "Value", "Detail", "Refer", and "Auth".

# Preparation of the Datasets Takes Effort

- Writing multiple datasets --each with the right grain.
- Adding plumbing variables

If you are new to REDCap and its API, please first understand the concepts described in these two REDCapR [vignettes](#):

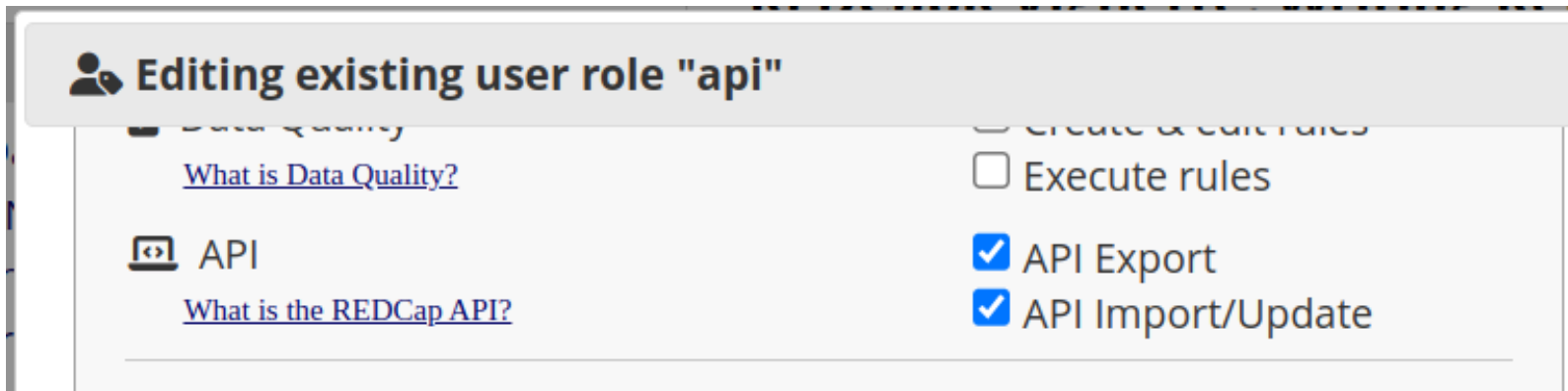
- [Typical REDCap Workflow for a Data Analyst](#) (essentially everything in this workshop until now)
- [Retrieving Longitudinal and Repeating Structures](#)

# REDCapR

- Uses the [httr](#) (which uses curl) to interact with a REDCap server.
- In a sense, REDCapR's goal is to directly translate data between REDCap's MariaDB and R's `data.frame`.
- Also check out [redcapAPI](#). Benjamin Nutter have talked a lot over the years.
- Packages like [tidyREDCap](#), [REDCapTidieR](#), & [REDCapDM](#) take it a step further for facilitating important tasks.
- Currently, there haven't been any second-level efficiencies developed for uploading, so we'll use REDCapR.
- For a list of all the packages (not just R packages), see [REDCap Tools](#) (<https://redcap-tools.github.io/projects/>).
- A part of this presentation requires the most recent version (that's not yet on CRAN):  
`remotes::install_github("OuhscBbmc/REDCapR")`

# Token Permission

- Make sure the "API Import/Update" box is checked by the project admin.



- Within REDCapR documentation, "import" means the client is uploading/writing to the server. (Some packages define it differently.)

# Vignettes: Writing to a REDCap Project

- <https://ouhscbbmc.github.io/REDCapR>
- <https://ouhscbbmc.github.io/REDCapR/articles/longitudinal-and-repeating.html>
  - Stephan and I developed this vignette
- <https://ouhscbbmc.github.io/REDCapR/articles/workflow-write.html>
  - Raymond and I developed this vignette