

# **Rigor and Reproducibility Review**

**Review!**

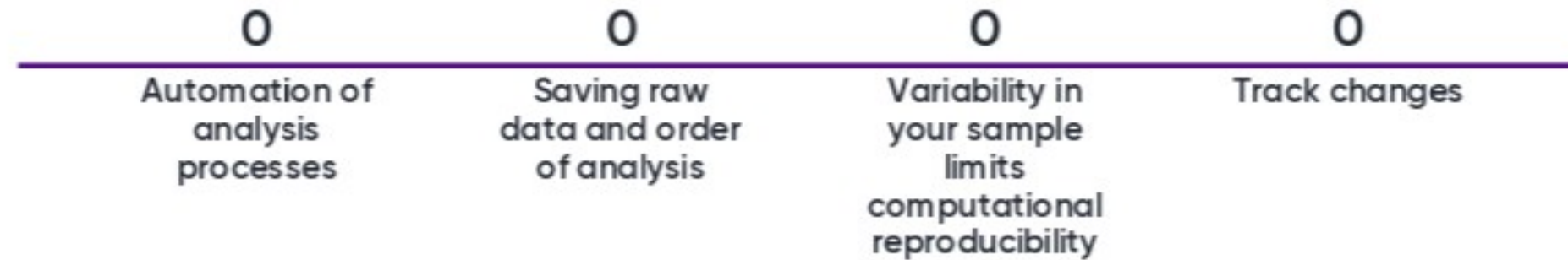


# Computational Reproducibility

# What do we mean by computational reproducibility?

0	0	0
The ability to get similar findings when running an experiment again	The ability to get the same results when running analyses	The ability to detect variation in a sample set

# Which of the following is NOT an element of computational reproducibility



# Using a tool like Excel can limit reproducibility because

The raw data file is changed by the analyses

A person normally has to actively click, type and run the analyses

The order operations is not stored and may not be obvious

Because many computers have it, it can be easily shared





# When conducting analyses, which of the following could be used to improve computational reproducibility

Save the syntax/code for your commands

Comment the syntax/code so others know why you are doing things the way you are

Maintain a raw data file in the same file folder



# How can setting up an R Project help computational reproducibility



# R Projects

- Store your files together in one folder
- Maintain an R history file
- Maintain an optional git file

# **Reproducibility, Replicability, Repeatability**

# What are factors that limit replicability?

## Limiting factors of Replication

- Complexity
- Variation
- Unknown information
- Limits to measurements
- Prior probability
- Poor study design and execution
- Bad stats & bias

**What are examples of ways one could one make their research reproducible?**

# How could one make their research reproducible

- Use/Publish Protocols
- Make Data Available
- Make Analysis Code Available

# Why might sex of subjects/specimens matter for rigor and reproducibility?



# Sex as a biological variable may impact

- Dosing levels
- Adverse events
- Response
- Disease Presentation

**What are problematic techniques that make research less replicable? (e.g. p-hacking)**

# Problematic Techniques

- P-Hacking
- HARKing
- Cherry Picking/Publishing Only Positive Results

# Which of the following is NOT true of underpowered studies?

- 0 Are not effective at detecting small differences
- 0 Occur due to lack of funding and lack of understanding of power analyses
- 0 Typically have very large sample sizes

# Low power increases the likelihood of

0

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False Negatives -  
Findings that appear  
to show no difference  
between groups  
when a real  
difference exists

0

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False Positives -  
Findings that appear  
to show a difference  
between groups  
when no actual  
difference exists



# Research Data Management

# What are elements of a good data management plan?



# Elements of a Good Data Management Plan

- Create a Data Inventory
- Have a protocol for describing your data
- Have a plan for preserving your data
- Have a plan for accessing your data

# **Rigorous Research and Literature Review**

# How does an effective literature search fit into the Rigor and Reproducibility Framework?



# Adding terms with AND between them

0	0	0
Is used between similar concepts to limit your search (e.g. Mouse AND Mice)	Is used between different concepts to limit your search (e.g. Mouse AND alcohol)	Is used between similar concepts to expand your search (e.g. Mouse AND Mice)

# Adding OR between terms

0	0	0
Is used between similar concepts to expand your search (e.g. Mouse OR Mice)	Is used between similar concepts to limit your search (e.g. Mouse OR Mice)	Is used between different concepts to expand your search (e.g. Mouse OR alcohol)

# Appraising the Existing Literature





# How can researchers increase the rigor and reproducibility of their research when they publish?



## How can researchers increase their rigor and reproducibility when publishing

- Report sex of sample
- Report blinding of sample
- Report how specimens were stored, if equal treatment (outside of treatment of interest) was given to control and experimental
- Report analysis techniques
- Try to clarify any areas of bias



# Publication bias is

0

The tendency  
of positive and  
exciting  
findings to be  
published

0

Mostly a  
problem in  
open access  
journals

0

Can be  
avoided by  
publishing in  
high "impact  
factor" journals



# Homework

Use an R Notebook (.rmd file) to write a short reflection on the elements of computational reproducibility, and if and why they could be relevant to your work. Demonstrate in your .rmd file how to read in a data file (i.e. read.csv) and perform a function like mean or median on a variable.

