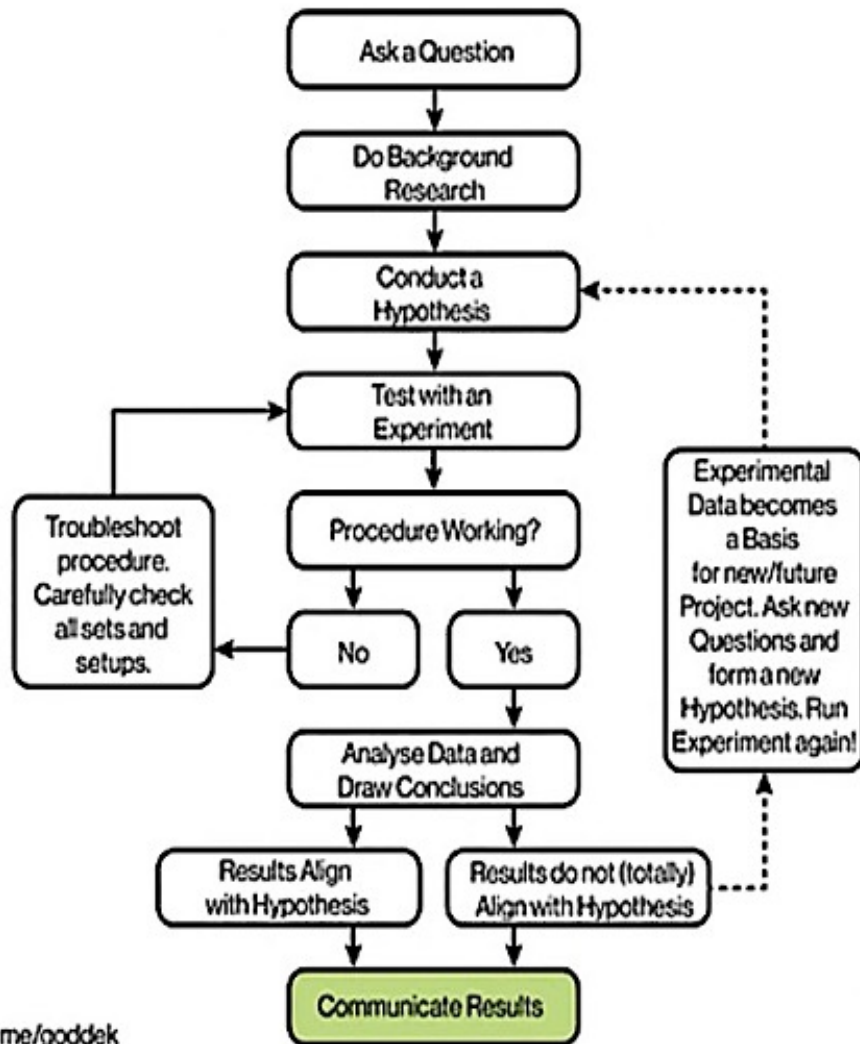
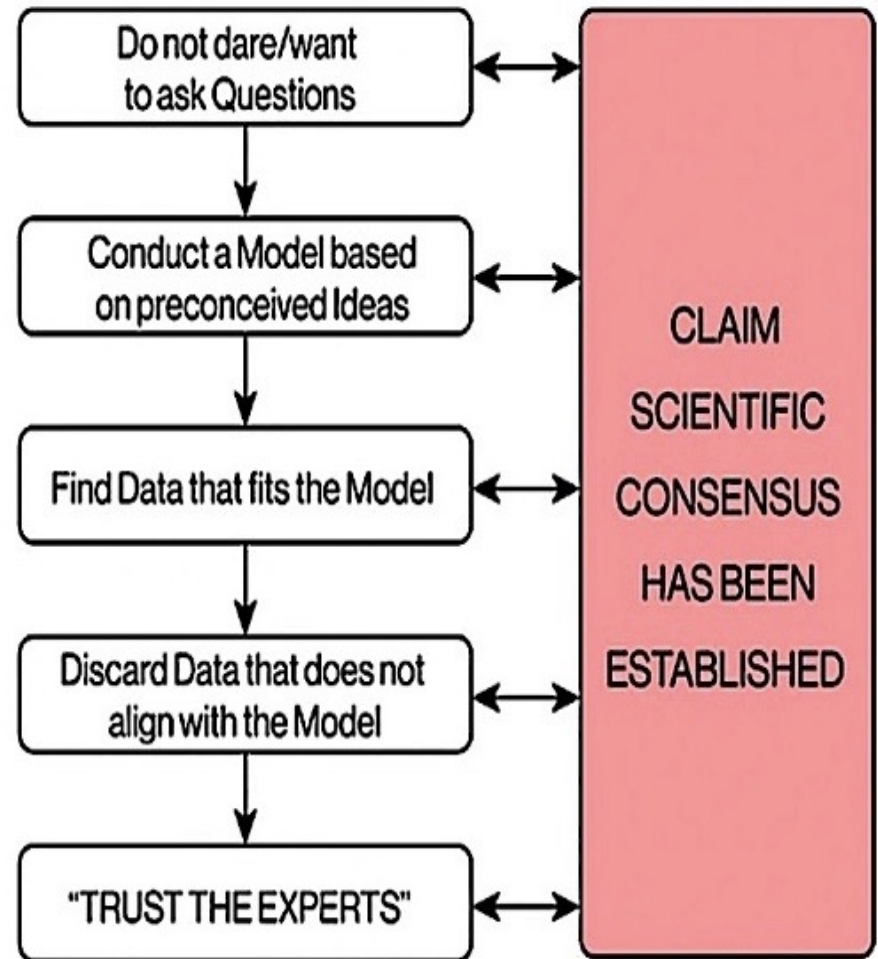


Do not confuse science with scientism!

Science



Scientism



Scientific Fraud

In May 2020, the British journal *The Lancet* [published a study](#) showing COVID-19 patients treated with hydroxychloroquine dying at a higher rate than patients not receiving this drug.

The WHO and governments all over the world responded by [limiting access](#) to this commonly used generic drug.

This study was retracted when readers started reporting [glaring inconsistencies](#) in the hospital data, and the third party providing the data [suddenly became unavailable](#).

At the time of publication, one of two lead co-authors was [conducting trials](#) with the far more profitable COVID treatment, Remdesivir.



Sapan Desai, head of Surgisphere



Editor of Lancet: *Medical Research is Unreliable at Best or Completely Fraudulent*

Dr Richard Horton declared, “Much of the scientific literature, perhaps half, may simply be untrue. Afflicted by studies with **small sample sizes, tiny effects, invalid exploratory analyses, and flagrant conflicts of interest**, together with an obsession for pursuing **fashionable trends** of dubious importance, science has taken a turn towards darkness.”

<https://www.drugawareness.org/editor-of-lancet-medical-research-is-unreliable-at-best-or-completely-fraudulent/>

Red Flags for Discerning Fraud:

- **Is it corroborated?** *Does it concur with raw data? Does it concur with independent sources?*
- **Who benefits?** *Who sponsored the research? Does it benefit influential organizations with deep pockets?*
- **What is the track record of the researchers?** *Did they ever participate in rigged studies? Do they have conflicts of interest?*
- **What is the track record of the peer reviewers?** *Do they have conflicts of interest?*
- **How do the authors react when confronted with contrary evidence?** *Do they evade scientific arguments?*
 - **Evasive:** *Generalized criticism, ad hominem attacks, straw man arguments, gaslighting, censorship*
 - **Legitimate:** *Criticism that focuses on specific details (itemized)*

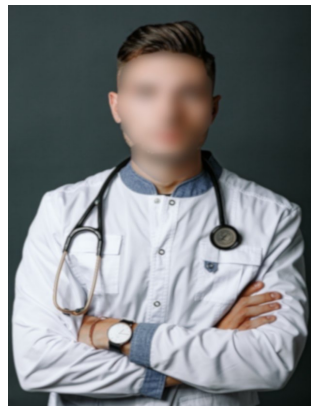
Astroturfing = fake grassroots movement



The whole point of astroturf is to try to convince you there's widespread support for or against an agenda when there's not. **Sharyl Attkisson, investigative reporter**

<https://sharylattkisson.com/2016/07/top-10-astroturfers/>

Example: You choose to “do your own research” on the safety of a given drug, not knowing that your internet search was rigged (via bots & sock puppet accounts), your physician was nudged (via free samples & workshops) and your other “trusted sources” like mainstream media and government agencies were captured (via sponsors, grants, user fees, job offers, & partnerships).



Review Questions

5. A study evaluating the safety of a new hypertension treatment shows a higher death rate in people receiving the new drug. Which critique of the study is an example of a **straw man** argument?
- ➔ a. The study tries to discredit the use of innovative therapies for treating people with hypertension.
 - b. The study was poorly designed because the sicker patients got the new drug.
 - c. The study was rigged.
 - d. The researchers are just amateurs that teach at a community college.

Review Questions

6. A study evaluating the safety of a new hypertension treatment shows a higher death rate in people receiving the new drug. Which critique of the study is an example of an **ad hominem** attack?
- a. The study tries to discredit the use of innovative therapies for treating people with hypertension.
 - b. The study was poorly designed because the sicker patients got the new drug.
 - c. The study was rigged.
 - d. The researchers are just amateurs that teach at a community college.

Review Questions

7. A study evaluating the safety of a new hypertension treatment shows a higher death rate in people receiving the new drug. Which critique of the study is an example of **itemized** criticism?
- a. The study tries to discredit the use of innovative therapies for treating people with hypertension.
 - b. The study was poorly designed because the sicker patients got the new drug.
 - c. The study was rigged.
 - d. The researchers are just amateurs that teach at a community college.

Review Questions

8. A study evaluating the safety of a new hypertension treatment shows a higher death rate in people receiving the new drug. Which critique of the study is points out a possible **conflict of interest**?
- a. The study tries to discredit the use of innovative therapies for treating people with hypertension.
 - b. The study was rigged
 - ➔ c. The research was funded by competitors profiting from an alternative therapy for hypertension.
 - d. The researchers are just amateurs that teach at a community college.