

Introduction to The BASIS Special Series on Open Science Practices

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During [January 1996](#), the Division on Addiction created The WAGER, which was the precursor to The BASIS. We created The WAGER because academic research, including addiction research, often is [locked behind paywalls](#). This history suggests that The WAGER was an early open science initiative. We have carried this support for open science forward into our work for The BASIS. The BASIS's mission is to minimize addiction's harmful effects by providing the general public, treatment providers, policy makers and others with access to addiction research. Today, interest in open science is growing, in part due to the replication crisis first observed by the [Many Labs](#) research initiative (Nosek & Lakens, 2014; Open Science Collaborative, 2015). This month's Special Series about *contemporary open science practices* discusses ways that researchers and academic journals can support open science and features research that has used such strategies.

Researchers have implicated a variety of research practices in the development of the replication crisis. Many of these relate to so-called researcher degrees of freedom (Wicherts et al., 2016), which include research practices and decisions that intentionally or unintentionally increase the likelihood of observing and reporting statistically significant findings. However, the peer review system itself might play a role in the replication crisis through publication bias (e.g., publication preferences for novel significant findings; Ferguson & Heene, 2012). This is problematic because as Asendorpf (2013) noted: "*When a paper contains only one perfect but underpowered demonstration of an effect, high powered replication studies are needed before much credibility can be given to the observed effect.*" This suggests that although researchers can act in ways that increase the likelihood of replicable research (by [pre-registering their studies](#), for example), changes in the

editorial process can facilitate the growth of a replicable literature as well. Some possibilities for the peer review publishing process discussed by open science supporters include the following ideas:

- Require a pre-registration statement. In a Methods or Limitations section, researchers would provide the enduring link to their pre-registration, or explain that the study was not pre-registered and therefore findings should be considered exploratory until replicated.
- Require a data availability statement. In a Methods or Limitations section, researchers would report where data are available upon publication, or include a statement that explains why data are not publicly available.
- Allow pre-prints on the [Open Science Framework](#), [psyarxiv](#), or similar services.
- Allow high-powered, high-quality replication studies to be published, even though they lack the novelty of new discoveries.
- Proactively solicit high-powered research replications of important but underpowered, unexpected, or controversial findings.
- Certify open science practice using [open science badges](#), which research shows increase data sharing (Kidwell et al., 2016; Rowhani-Farid et al., 2017).

To promote awareness of the use of contemporary open science research practices for addiction research, this Special Series highlights published papers that have employed some of these techniques. Each featured open access paper has available research pre-registration documents. First up, [The DRAM features](#) a pre-registered study related to self-affirmation and receptiveness to alcohol warnings. Next, [The WAGER features](#) a pre-registered study concerning gambling-related judgments and graphical depictions of payback information. Following this, [ASHES features](#) pre-registered research about the effectiveness and believability of tobacco health warnings. Finally, [STASH features](#) pre-registered research that addresses patient-centered care for addiction treatment. We will round out this Special Series with guest editorials from Drs. [Rob Heirene](#) & [Sally Gainsbury](#), [Can the Open Science Revolution Revolutionise Gambling Research?](#), and Dr. [David Mellor](#), [Open Science Practices to Support Addiction Research](#).

We hope you will enjoy and learn from this Special Series. Please share your feedback using the comment link below or within the individual posts. Don't miss our earlier announcements related to the [Division on Addiction's open science practices](#)!

— Debi A. LaPlante, *Director, Division on Addiction at Cambridge Health Alliance, a Harvard Medical School teaching hospital; Assistant Professor, Harvard Medical School*

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