

Ground-Breaking Quintuple-Blinded Study Leads to Near Total Confusion



(Edinburgh, UK) Following extensive efforts to eliminate potential biases from their study, team members from Queen's Medical Research Institute now report several “minor uncertainties” regarding outcomes as well as some “ongoing debate” as to the study’s original purpose. “We very likely set out to investigate the effects of environment on cancer risk in humans,” stated lead scientist Hamish

Some of the confused scientists or subjects Leith. “Or possibly it was something to do with salmon hatcheries or maybe physiological impacts of floral arrangements,” Leith added. “We’re still working out some of those kinks.” In a bold and innovative design feature, both researchers and subjects were blinded as to whether they were researchers or subjects, or for that matter, if they were involved in the study. “Admittedly, our coding strategy was a bit opaque,” admitted Gwen MacNab, chief scientist responsible for data management. “For example, it would have been useful to have access to a key that wasn’t itself a blinded code. But those are some of the minutiae that you can’t always anticipate. In any case,” emphasized MacNab, “the anonymity of our subjects, assuming that our study had subjects and that this was indeed a study, was *exceptionally* well protected!” Currently, it is unclear to those who may or may not be associated with the study if it is now complete or possibly yet to begin. “Perhaps some better guidelines or increased communication would have been helpful,” confessed Leith. “Yet at the same time we felt it was imperative to achieve a healthy level of naiveté so far as details like subject area, hypotheses, previous findings, approaches, and data, which could color interpretation. Regardless, I have complete confidence that our novel and unprecedented approach has been or certainly will be an unmitigated success. @wyomingwormboy