

# THE COMPASS

A BULLETIN BY THE RESEARCH INTEGRITY AND ETHICS OFFICE

## Reproducibility of Research

**Research findings** must be **Reproducible** in order to have scientific credibility and to have any use to the community. However, an [article](#) in *Nature* quotes troublingly low proportions of published studies that are thought to be reproducible. The following are measures to ensure robustness of data :

- 1) At the **project stage**, researchers can adopt triangulation defined as “the strategic use of multiple approaches to address one question” so as to ensure the thoroughness of work done. [\[+Read more\]](#).
- 2) At the **pre-publication stage**, journals could lead in replication exercises to ensure the soundness of raw data submitted. Though this could lengthen time taken to publish, it can improve the quality of publications while also potentially removing any feelings of animosity between original authors and study replicators. [\[+Read more\]](#).
- 3) **Post-publication**, traditional methods of correcting publications are inconsistent in highlighting inaccuracies in published literature. Two researchers share with the scientific community their approach to actively clarify and change questionable findings/approaches in scientific literature. [\[+Read more\]](#).

In science consensus is irrelevant.

What is relevant is reproducible results.

Michael Crichton

## Automating Image Duplication Checks

The advent of plagiarism checkers has resulted in the automation of checks to scan for plagiarised content in manuscripts submitted.

Though such plug and play solutions for imaging checks are yet to be developed, an article in *Nature* titled “**Researchers have finally created a tool to spot duplicated images across thousands of papers**” highlights the conception of an algorithm that is able to call out duplicated images through database searches. While still in its early stage, this algorithm can potentially be rolled out to journals and research integrity offices to automate the currently manual process.

[\[+Read more\]](#).

## Training for NTU IRB members

On 13th March 2018, trainers from [CENTRES](#) (Clinical Ethics Network+ Research Ethics Support) conducted a workshop for NTU IRB members on ethical principles when involving human subjects in research. CENTRES is a national training platform catered to enhancing capabilities of ethics committees’ work in Singapore.

Ms Sumytra Menon, Programme Director at CENTRES, and her team, tailored the workshop towards the nature of Social Behavioural and Educational research. There were breakout session where case examples were discussed with the assistance of facilitators.

The aim is to ensure that the ethical standards of research in NTU is comparable to internationally accepted standards.



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<b>Deadlines:</b>	<b>2 May 2018:</b> Next due date for submissions to NTU-IRB and NTU-IACUC
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