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What do we know about  
uncertainty, and teaching  
around uncertainty, in health  
professions education?  
A scoping review

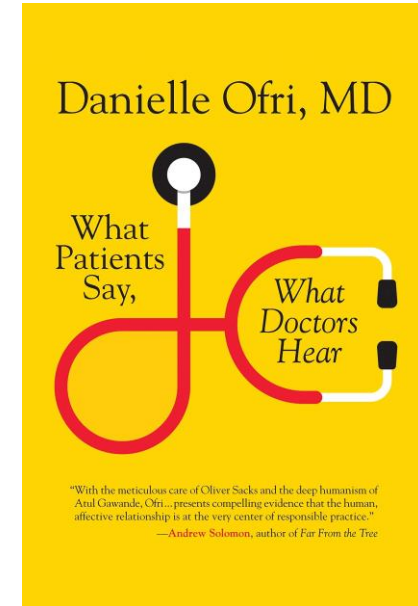
Jenny Moffett  
Health Professions Education Centre,  
RCSI, Dublin

Jenny Hammond  
School of Veterinary Medicine,  
University of Glasgow



“**Tolerating ambiguity and uncertainty** is a **profoundly frustrating experience** for most people, but especially for doctors. Living with uncertainty is like being on a slow-moving carousel, with that **vague unsettling sensation** permeating your body. And then, in that state, doctors are asked to make **serious and profound decisions**, ones that may gravely affect the life of a human being.”

Danielle Ofri



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# Why a scoping review?

“Scoping reviews are useful for answering the broader questions (such as “What is the nature of evidence for this intervention?” or “What is known about this concept?”)”

Tricco et al., 2018



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# Who is on the team?



Jenny Hammond



Jenny Moffett



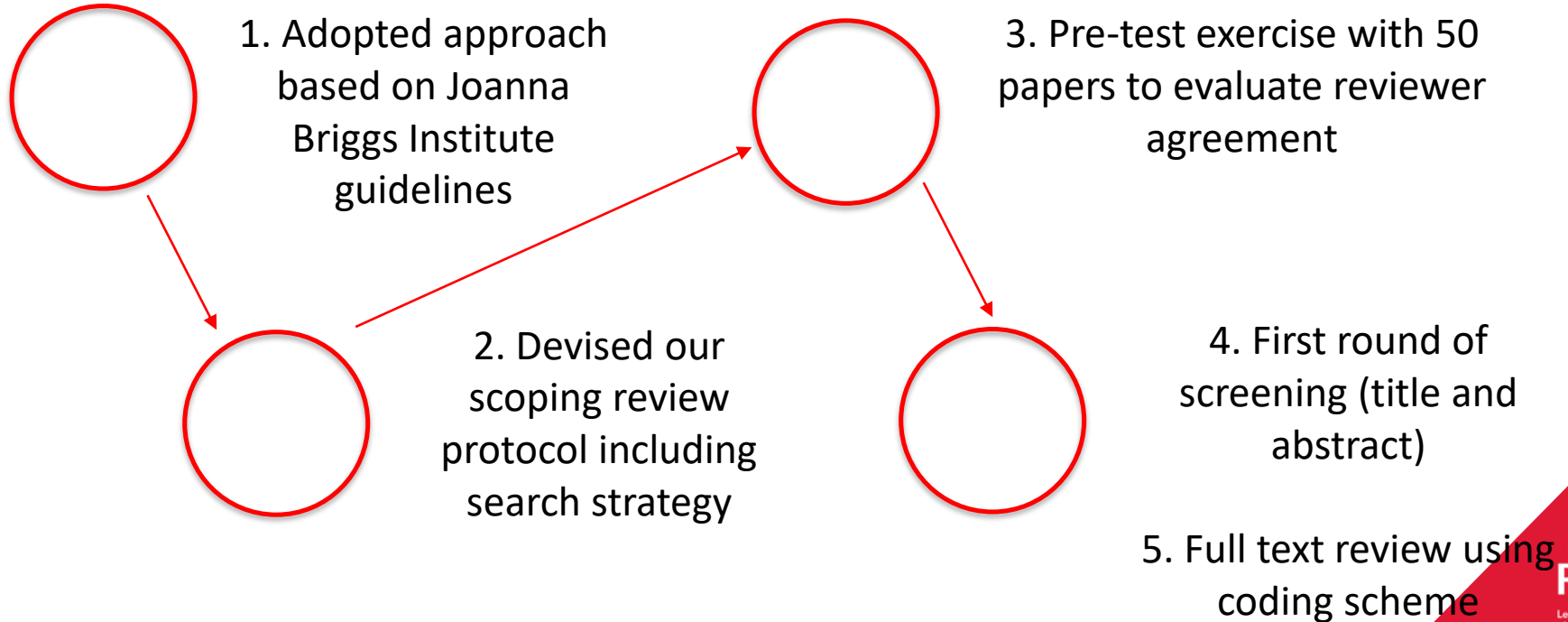
Teresa Pawlikowska



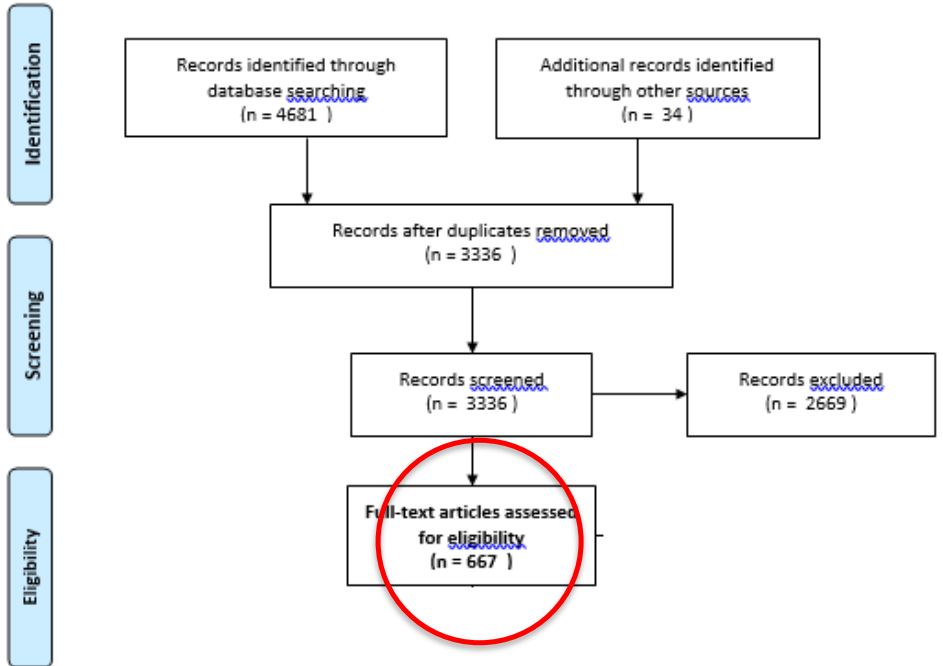
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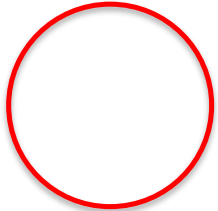
# How have we approached the task?



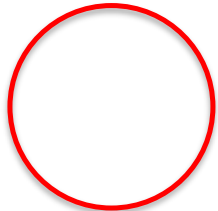
# Where have we got to?



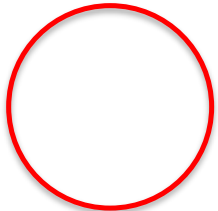
# What have we learned so far?



Teaching and learning strategies: reflection, storytelling, problem-based learning, serious games, simulation and role-play, storytelling, script concordance testing



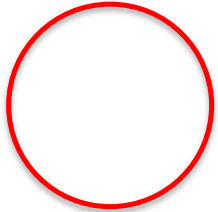
Uncertainty “bedfellows”: ethical decision-making, communication, cognitive reasoning, evidence-based medicine, professionalism, end-of-life topics



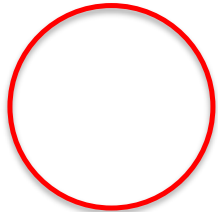
Uncertainty is a topic of discussion for most health professions with no clear pathway to address. Has important implications for career choice, graduate outcomes and health



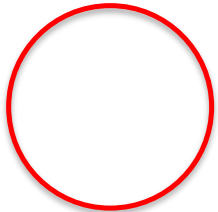
# Other lessons?



Scoping reviews can be time consuming and relies on the reviewing team being able to match work flow, although this can be asynchronous



Logistically, Zoom web conferencing tool and EndNote to complete – and use a good coding sheet



PRISMA Extension for scoping reviews is now available







The wise man is one who  
knows what he does not know.

Laozi

“ quote fancy