Future Research Priorities

“\textbf{If you can’t measure it, you can’t improve it.}”

1. If you are doing a study, also measure costs.
   - Only 4 US-based cost-effectiveness analyses of nonpharmacologic therapies for pain
   - Measure both upfront and ongoing healthcare costs
   - If possible capture both diagnosis-specific and other costs
   - Also, measure the effects on productivity
Future Research Priorities

2. Identify and target high-impact chronic pain
   - “associated with substantial restriction of participation in work, social, and self-care activities”

   ▫ The biggest effects and cost impacts seem to come from reducing high-impact chronic pain
   ▫ Some nonpharmacologic therapies seem to do better than others with high-impact chronic pain
Future Research Priorities

3. Expand the use of economic modeling

“essentially, all models are wrong, but some are useful”

George E.P. Box 1919-2013, Statistician

- Allow a synthesis of all available evidence
  - Can balance baseline sample mixes across studies
- Simulate experiments; help target needed trials
- Allow inclusion of economic outcomes when not directly measured