

Prioritizing Topics for *de novo* Systematic Review

Protein as an Example

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General approach

- Prioritized topics were recommended by a sub-group of the Joint Canada-U.S. Working Group for the DRIs
- Iterative consensus process involving several rounds of discussion regarding the results of the evidence scans
- The entire Working Group was involved in some of the discussions and in the final decision-making step

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Factors considered...

- Number and design of original studies
- Nature of the endpoints studied
- Emerging topic since last DRI review
- AMSTAR-2 rating of the identified SRs
- Consistency of existing SR conclusions
- Lack of *de novo* SRs on important topics

No established criteria for identifying qualified SRs

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SR #1: Protein and amino acid requirements

- Metabolic requirements for protein and amino acids, as assessed by indicators like nitrogen balance and indicator amino acid oxidation, by life-stage and sex

Rationale

- Several new studies published since the previous DRI review including findings of higher requirements than the current DRI in older adults
 - Research recommendation from previous review
- Important topic not addressed by a *de novo* SR during previous review

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SR #2: Protein and chronic disease or functional outcomes

- Bone health: Bone mineral density, fracture, osteoporosis, osteopenia

Rationale

- Relatively large number of studies identified including prospective cohort and RCTs
- Important topic not addressed by a de novo SR
- Existing SRs identified from the literature were not of high quality according to AMSTAR-2

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SR #2: Protein and chronic disease or functional outcomes

- Kidney health: Chronic kidney disease, renal insufficiency, kidney or ureteral stones

Rationale

- Important topic not addressed by a de novo SR
- Existing SRs identified from the literature were not of high quality according to AMSTAR-2

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SR #2: Protein and chronic disease or functional outcomes

- Age-related sarcopenia: Muscle mass, muscle function, diagnosed sarcopenia

Rationale

- Relatively large number of studies identified including prospective cohort and RCTs
- Emerging topic of public health importance
- Existing SRs identified from the literature were not of high quality according to AMSTAR-2

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Challenges...

- Process for evidence scan topic selection
- Criteria for prioritizing a topic for systematic review based on evidence scan results
- Criteria for acceptance of qualified systematic reviews

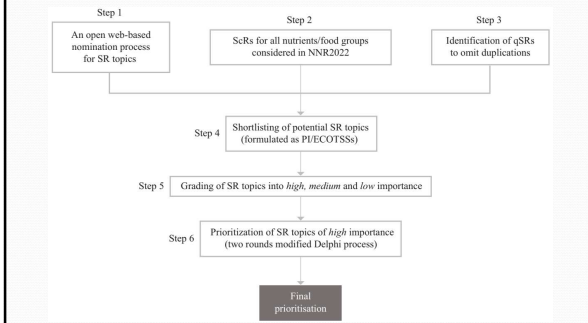
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Question...

What are the most important criteria for moving a topic forward from an evidence scan to a *de novo* systematic review in your opinion?

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Nordic Nutrition Recommendations Prioritization Process



Høyer et al. Food Nutr Res 2021;65:7828.

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