ThinkWell and DUETS: Register Research Uncertainties

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The Database of Uncertainties about the Effects of Treatments (DUETs) is a natural partnership where ThinkWell can facilitate research ideas while DUETS can register Research Uncertainties. ThinkWell and DUETs partner to build a bridge between academic research and public research priorities. DUETs was established in 2007 in the UK to identify, collate and publish uncertainties about the
effects of treatments. Information in DUETs not only helps health professionals identify treatment uncertainties quickly, but can also help those responsible for promoting and supporting research focus on important gaps in knowledge and the unmet information needs of patients and clinicians.

**Incubating Great Research Ideas**

Ever wonder where great research ideas come from? Those that make it to a funded project can come from anywhere but research ideas developed in a research institution are more likely to be equipped to get from concept to actual use in everyday clinical practice. ThinkWell and DUETs working together can work like a net to bring research ideas from outside academia or industry into a place where they can be adopted and researched. Many lay person initiated research projects could change the face of health care if only they are noticed and adopted. For example there are multiple examples of interventions that started as Research Uncertainties like inexpensive microscopes, 3D prosthetics, heart repair devices, inexpensive diagnostics for pancreatic cancer and ideas to make living with dementia and diabetes easier all invented by ordinary people without medical training. The BMJ blog by Amy Price notes that one thing they all share is that it was hard to get the attention of a research institution and be accepted as a bonafide treatment that helps patients.

**Developing the DUETS Database and ThinkWell**

The development of the DUETs database has produced an important resource for researchers and research funders. The use of a systematic methodology for identifying known uncertainties could potentially help programs such as ThinkWell to prioritize important topics for either primary
research or systematic review in a complex area that spans many disciplines and knowledge bases. As a result of the piloting process, it has been made clear how wide the pool of potential existing research is, being spread across a wide range of disciplines, and therefore a large number of sources, such as databases in the social sciences, humanities, and information technology and communications fields. For more information on the history of DUETS we make available the seminal paper by Anne Brice and Amanda Burls “ThinkWell and DUETS

**Getting Help to Register Your Research Uncertainties**

When you need help registering your Research Uncertainties contact us by commenting below and ThinkWell will help