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- Theoretically or clinically relevant differences between specific patient groups and other groups, if experimentally tested;
- Mechanisms that cause, perpetuate or reduce disorders;
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Participants in the studies may be patients, healthy subjects, or animals, depending on the relevance of the subject characteristics for the question to be answered.

Clinical trials (RCTs and others) should be registered in an official trial register and the registration number should be reported. These studies should include a flow diagram according to the most recent CONSORT guidelines and a CONSORT checklist should accompany the submission. See http://www.consort-statement.org for the guidelines and forms.

Studies testing hypotheses on characteristics of a disorder should not only include a non-patient control group, but also an appropriate clinical control group, to assess the specificity of the effect. We cannot guarantee acceptance of studies missing an appropriate clinical control group.

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