The Search for Landmark Papers

- Searched Web of Science Database
  - Authoritative information on number of times articles have been cited
  - Ability to sort by “Times cited”
  - Includes all citations from MEDLINE, the largest biomedical database
- **Titles, abstracts, keywords and subject headings** searched based on topic
  - Search range 1990-Present, English only
  - Limited to primary literature by excluding reviews, editorials, commentary

WHY Web of Science?

- Availability of Web of Science at reviewers’ home institutions. Similar databases like Scopus were not available.
- Web of Science and Google Scholar track citations; PubMed does not.
- Google Scholar is computer programming curated. Web of Science is curated by humans.
Landmark Paper Selection Example

Example 1
Topic: Damage Control Laparotomy

Strategy
Title, abstract, keywords: “Damage Control” AND laparotomy

Rationale
Searching broadly in multiple fields is desirable since damage control laparotomy is a very specific topic.

Example 2
Topic: Upper GI Bleed

Strategy
Title: upper GI bleed OR upper gastrointestinal bleed OR upper GI bleeding OR upper gastrointestinal bleeding OR UGI bleed OR UGI bleeding OR upper gastrointestinal hemorrhage OR

Major Subject: gastrointestinal hemorrhage

Rationale
Searching the abstracts would return too many irrelevant citations that mention GI bleeding in passing (ex: as part of a list of adverse drug effects)
### METHODS

- Articles sorted according to descending number of overall citations
- Recent articles (<10 yrs since published) considered even if overall # of citations is low
- Titles reviewed and PDFs downloaded
- Abstract review
- Study chosen based on:
  - Clinical relevance (to surgeons)
  - Number of citations
- Additional select publications not meeting initial search criteria were also considered on the merit of historical importance or lack of sufficient high-quality search results.