Experimental Criteria for Homeopathic Basic Research

- **Randomization**: The experimental units are randomly placed in each experiment.

- **Blinding**: In the experiment, the experimenter does not know which treatment (active treatment or control / placebo), the respective experimental group receives. The substances are coded.

  Randomization and blinding have the advantage that sample carryover and other factors can be controlled and they are basically easy to implement.

- **Positive and negative controls**: A so-called *positive control* is performed to confirm the reactivity of the chosen study model. The research model receives a gift or a concentration of a substance that in each case a response of the system can be expected. The *negative control* is performed to demonstrate the stability of the system and eliminate that due to the experimental design and implementation of transmission error (carry-over effects) or false-positive results may occur

- **Standardized preparation of the test samples**: The influence of impurities was discussed again and again, but so far there were no specific measurements. In particular, the manufacturing process of homeopathic remedies for experiments is susceptible to contamination.

- Avoid a systematic error due to **production of several samples**

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- Same **storage time** for all samples

- **Control sample**: The control sample occupies in homeopathic basic research a similar status as the placebo in clinical research

- **Internal replication**: The same experiment is repeated at a different time with new materials

- **Biometric Consulting**: A statistician or biometricians is essential for planning and evaluation of the experiments

References:

Stock-Schroer, B.; Albrecht, H.; Betti, L.; Dobos, G.; Endler, C.; Linde, K.; Ludtke, R.; Musial, F.; van Wijk, R.; Witt, C.; Baumgartner, S.: "Reporting Experiments in Homeopathic Basic Research--Description of the Checklist Development." Evid Based Complement Alternat Med 2009 Nov 1.

Stock-Schroer, B., Albrecht, H., Betti, L., Endler, P. C., Linde, K., Ludtke, R., Musial, F., van Wijk, R., Witt, C., Baumgartner, S. (2009): Reporting experiments in homeopathic basic research (REHBaR)--a detailed guideline for authors. Homeopathy 98 (4), 287-98.

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