The status quo

- Knowledge gaps
  - Well known in health
  - Norm rather than exception in social interventions?
- Research synthesis and effect measurement
  - Investment, not consumption
  - Organise what we already know!

Social and education interventions have as much potential for good or harm as health interventions – or more.

Progress backwards

Which of the following explain(s) the physiological relationships between qi and blood/xue?

A: Qi is the source of all material in the body and blood carries the energy
B: Blood is the source of all material in the body including Qi
C: Qi drives blood moving and blood carries Qi
D: Qi flows in the channels and blood is stored in organs
E: Qi produce blood and blood is the mother of Qi

Examination paper, Traditional Chinese Medicine, Salford University
Hierarchy of wisdom

- Data is not information
- Information is not knowledge
- Knowledge is not wisdom

An evidence renaissance?

- "First, more money is proposed for promoting the adoption of programs and practices that generate results backed up by strong evidence [the "top tier"]."
- "Second, for an additional group of programs with some supportive evidence but not as much, additional resources are allocated on the condition that the programs will be rigorously evaluated going forward. Over time, the Administration anticipates that some of these programs will move to the top tier, but if not their funds will be directed to other, more promising efforts."
- "Third, the approach encourages agencies to innovate and to test ideas with strong potential—ideas supported by preliminary research findings or reasonable hypotheses."