

Reaction: Censorship in Science and Medicine
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Scientists are truth-seekers. Beginning with observations, the pursuit of knowledge and discovery of the world around us has crafted fields of research. Internal checkpoints of peer review, study design, and statistical power uphold authenticity in hypothesis-driven research. Thus, the expectations of research are such that any published study is supposed to be valued as *fact*. Any data therefore has no political affiliation, no emotion, no opinion, no ulterior motive...just truth that can be used to inform better decisions on how people can live their best lives. This is the beauty of scientific study and principles – it is a precious practice unlike any other field of work or study. Efforts to limit the way that scientists communicate their research and to others effectively diminishes their professional authority, and undermines the integrity of evidence-based research.

My initial reaction to reading the Washington Post report that broke the news story of censorship at the CDC was similar to many of my colleagues: frustration and disbelief. While CDC officials were quick to respond to the “ban” and rename the edits as strong suggestions, the message was clear: government agencies are changing the manner in which information is presented and disseminated to the public.

Language is critical to we how perceive the world around us, and to how we learn. This apto005 a f1047 hryD