Hierarchical Levels of Evidence for Literature

- **Level 1**: Systematic reviews or meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials (RCTs)
  - Evidence-based clinical practice guidelines based on systematic reviews

- **Level 2**: Well-designed RCT

- **Level 3**: Controlled trial without randomization (quasi-experimental study)

- **Level 4**: Single non-experimental study (case-control, correlational, cohort, cross-sectional, longitudinal studies)

- **Level 5**: Systematic reviews of descriptive studies
  - Systematic reviews of qualitative studies

- **Level 6**: Single descriptive or qualitative study

- **Level 7**: Opinion of authorities and/or reports of expert committees
  - Quality improvement reports
  - Evidence-based practice projects

Adapted from:
- Johns Hopkins nursing evidence-based practice: Models and Guidelines

Adapted and posted with permission from Dr. Melnyk 5.6.15