RESILIENCE RESEARCH DESIGN TOOL
AND KEY RESEARCH TERMS

Are one or more key research terms* identified in the title, abstract, or specific aims?

YES →

Does the study target health maintenance, ability to thrive, or preventative or protective pathways? ¹

NO → N/A

YES →

Does the research design include a stressor or a proxy for a stressor or challenge? ²

NO → N/A

YES →

Is an intervention identified?
OR
Are protective factors identified or sought for discovery?

NO → N/A

YES →

Are the metrics designed to capture changes that strengthen and empower the system³ toward resistance, recovery, growth, or adaptive response?

NO → N/A

YES →

Is the study designed to identify interventions or protective factors that directly strengthen and empower the system?⁴

NO → N/A

YES →

RESILIENCE STUDY

KEY RESEARCH TERMS*

adapt adaptogen enhance growth homeostasis maintenance mitigate modifiable mediators modulate preserve protective recondition recovery regenerate repair resilience resist restrain reverse

N/A
Notes:

1. Resilience studies are not designed to focus solely on disease or risk pathways.

2. Examples of stressors/challenges include but are not limited to:

   Natural disasters
   Bullying
   Crime
   Work Overload
   Viral infections
   Aging
   High amyloid plaque burden
   BRCA2 positive status

While most studies include specific stressors, there are some studies where proxies for stressors must be used to measure resilience. Examples of proxies for a stressor include but are not limited to: antibody load for viral infection; DEXA scan for bone integrity.

3. A system can be represented by various factors that impact human health, including environmental or community exposures as well as an individual’s psychological, physiological, and molecular capacity.
4. If the intervention only facilitates another factor or process that strengthens and empowers the system, then the intervention is not directly resulting in resilience.

The illustrated example shows the different types of studies that may be used to identify best practices in healing a broken leg.

- The drug study determines if the analgesic has any impact on pain.
- The facilitation study determines if the analgesic reduces pain enough to facilitate an intervention (exercise) that might ultimately strengthen or empower the musculoskeletal system.
- The resilience study determines if the intervention strengthens or empowers the musculoskeletal system (resilience).