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# CURED: A Proposal for a New Collaborative Project on Energy Data

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# Symptoms

- Patient Complains of:
  - Inadequate parameter specification or relationship specification in energy models
  - Use of proxy data
  - Ignoring “real world relationships” because of insufficient data
  - Model results show untraceable bias or unobservable/ immeasurable errors



# Case History and Diagnosis

- Increasing detail in models means that models increasingly need very specific data
  - Available data is sometimes out-of-date, or incomplete, sparse or non-existent
  - Modelers use “modeler’s judgment” (“WAGs?”) or intuit relationships, or use inappropriate relationship specification, or ignore phenomena entirely for lack of data



## Case History and Diagnosis, cont.

- Obtaining Data is Difficult
  - Data often is costly
  - Data development can be onerous, and can run afoul of regulations on surveys, or can be made difficult by confidentiality concerns
  - Data collection is not something easy to find money for
    - Note: Patient EIA has long suffered from this malady



## Case History and Diagnosis, cont.

- Collecting data isn't fun and doesn't get you published
  - There is very little incentive in the academic market to collect or develop new data
    - New energy elasticity work has not been done at needed scale for decades



# Prescription

- New Data Collection & Development Effort, Collaboratively Funded
- **CURED: Collaborative for University Research on Energy Data**



# Rx Label

Run under auspices of ECAI, through NREL

Co-funded by ECAI participants

Contracts with universities to hire undergraduate and graduate students in energy or economics programs to develop and collect data

Universities could include those with ties to national labs (e.g., Berkeley, U Tenn, Chicago, etc.), and those without but with top-notch energy programs (e.g., MIT, Carnegie Mellon, etc.)

Warning: side effects may include better coordination and dialogue with academic community, including establishing “farm teams” of future energy agency staffs