



Methods Symposium Vienna 2015

Speakers' biographies

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Elie Akl

Elie is a general internist and serves as the director of the Clinical Research Institute (CRI) and co-director of the Center for Systematic Reviews in Health Policy and Systems Research (SPARK) at the American University of Beirut. He is a member of the GRADE Guidance Group and is interested in both systematic review and guideline methodology

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Fiona Alderdice

Fiona joined the School of Nursing in Midwifery, Queens University Belfast in 2002 and was promoted to Chair in Perinatal Health and Well-being in 2010. Fiona's undergraduate degree and PhD are in Psychology and her work in maternal and child health research dates back to 1992 when she worked under the directorship of Iain Chalmers at the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit (NPEU) in Oxford. She was later awarded a MRC HSR training fellowship in 1998 to support her work on complex pregnancy. Fiona is a long-standing Cochrane reviewer and her ongoing research interests include complex pregnancy, follow up of infants admitted to neonatal intensive care and perinatal psychology. These interests have been brought together in her most recent research initiative the Parent and Baby LAB

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Andrew Booth

Andrew is a systematic review methodologist with a background in information science. He is a co-Convenor of the Cochrane Qualitative and Implementation Methods Group and a member of the Cochrane Information Retrieval Methods Group. Andrew has a particular interest in qualitative evidence synthesis (QES) and runs the annual ESQUIRE workshop on qualitative systematic reviews in Sheffield each September. Together with his colleagues at the School of Health and Related Research (SchARR), University of Sheffield Andrew developed the methods of "best fit framework synthesis". His current research interests lie in methods for identifying and using theory in synthesis, searching and sampling in QES and publication bias in qualitative research. Andrew is a member of the CERQual core group that is currently developing methods for assessing confidence in the findings of reviews of qualitative research.

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Mike Clarke

Mike is Director of the Northern Ireland Network for Trials Methodology Research, based at Queen's University in Belfast, Northern Ireland. He has spent more than 25 years working on systematic reviews and large randomised trials in a range of areas of health and social care, including conducting research into the methods for doing both. He is Coordinating Editor of the Cochrane Methodology Review Group and, with others, has established the SWAT and SWAR (Studies Within A Trial/Review) initiative to promote and facilitate methodological research that could be embedded into health and social care research.

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Jon Deeks

Jon is Professor of Biostatistics, Director of the Birmingham Clinical Trials Unit, and leads the Biostatistics, Evidence Synthesis and Test Evaluation Research Group in the School of Health and Population Sciences, where he also holds a position of Joint Research Lead.

Jon trained as a medical statistician, and has followed a career which has given him broad experience across health research through working as a statistical collaborator on a variety of health research projects. His major methodological contributions have been made in the fields of evidence synthesis and test evaluation.

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Julie Glanville

Julie is a qualified librarian who has been working in the field of systematic reviews for more than 20 years. She manages YHEC's review and information services to public and private sector customers and its training programme. Before joining YHEC in 2008, Julie was Associate Director and Information Service Manager at the Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) at the University of York for fourteen years. Julie is a co-convenor of the Cochrane Information Retrieval Methods Group, a co-author of the Cochrane Handbook chapter on searching for evidence and has contributed to the development of systematic review guidance and training for the European Food Safety Agency. Julie is an Associate Editor for the journal Research Synthesis Methods.

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Jeremy Grimshaw

Jeremy's research focuses on the evaluation of interventions to disseminate and implement evidence-based practice. He is Director of Cochrane Canada and formerly was the Co-coordinating Editor of the Cochrane Effective Practice and Organisation of Care group. He was Co-Chair of the Cochrane Steering Group 2010-2014 and is the incoming Co-Chair of the Campbell Collaboration Steering Group. He is a Senior Scientist, Clinical Epidemiology Program, Ottawa Hospital Research Institute, a Full Professor in the Department of Medicine, University of Ottawa and a Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Health Knowledge Transfer and Uptake.

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Julian Higgins

Julian is Professor of Evidence Synthesis in the School of Social and Community Medicine at the University of Bristol, UK. His research interests are primarily in methodology of systematic reviews and statistical combination of evidence across studies. Interests include: assessing and adjusting for bias in primary studies; meta-epidemiology; meta-analysis methods including investigating heterogeneity, Bayesian approaches, network meta-analysis and analysing individual participant data; and modernizing research synthesis approaches.

He has been an active contributor to Cochrane for almost 20 years, and has been co-editor of the Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions since 2003. He is co-author of the Wiley textbook Introduction to Meta-analysis

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John P.A. Ioannidis

John currently holds the C.F. Rehnborg Chair in Disease Prevention at Stanford University and is Professor of Medicine and Director of the Stanford Prevention Research Center at Stanford University School of Medicine. He has previously chaired the Department of Hygiene and Epidemiology at the University of Ioannina School of Medicine in Greece since 1999 (a tenured professor since 2003, on leave since 8/2010). He was born in New York, NY in 1965 and grew up in Athens, Greece. He was Valedictorian of his class (1984) at Athens College and won a number of early awards, including the National Award of the Greek Mathematical Society, in 1984.

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Tom Jefferson

Tom is co-author of several Cochrane reviews including the only Cochrane review (so far) based exclusively on regulatory evidence. His main Cochrane work is within the ARI Group although he contributes to several other review and methods groups. Since 2009 Tom has been exploring the possibility of changing the Evidence paradigm in EBM. Tom is a founder of the Brighton Collaboration and one of the original five signatories of the RIAT declaration.

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Toby Lasserson

Toby is a Senior Editor at the Cochrane Editorial Unit in London, UK. He has been involved with Cochrane for over 15 years and has contributed as an author or editor to more than 50 published Cochrane Reviews. Since September 2013 he has worked with a team of editors in managing a pre-publication quality assurance programme for Cochrane Reviews, developing a strong interest in the design and implementation of protocol methods, and the use of GRADE in reviews. Toby has also been part of the working groups that developed the standards for conduct and reporting of Cochrane Reviews (MECIR, PLEACS) and was part of the development groups for extending reporting guidelines from PRISMA to Protocols, IPD, Harms and Abstracts

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Jo McKenzie

Jo is a Senior Research Fellow (biostatistician) at the School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Monash University. She is a Co-Convenor of the Statistical Methods Group. Her research interests include methodological issues in meta-analysis of randomised trials with continuous outcomes, selective inclusion and reporting of results in randomised trials and systematic reviews, and approaches to synthesising evidence in systematic reviews of policy, public health, and health service delivery interventions.

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Karel G.M. Moons

Karel is Professor of Clinical Epidemiology at the Julius Center for Health Sciences and Primary Care. He is Director of Research in the management team of the Julius Center and heading the research programme 'Methodology'. Since 2005 he has an Adjunct Professorship at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, USA.

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Mona Nasser

Mona is the Clinical Lecturer in Evidence Based Dentistry in Peninsula Dental School, Plymouth University and co-convenor of the Cochrane Agenda and Priority Setting Methods Group. Her current research interest focuses on systematic reviews, research priority setting methodology, policies that lead to reducing research waste and interdisciplinary research.

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Jane Noyes

Jane is Professor of Health and Social Services Research and Child Health. She moved to Bangor University in 2005, having previously worked at Manchester, York, Keele and Salford Universities, and the National Heart and Lung Institute at the University of London. Jane specialises in child health and social care research and cost consequences. Her research interests include acute care, complex care, long-term conditions and self-management, transition to adult services, young adulthood with disability, end of life care, and sibling and family care. She has growing interests in international maternal child health in lower and middle income countries, and reverse innovation.

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Barney Reeves

Barney is Co-convenor of Cochrane Collaboration Non-Randomized Studies Methods Group, focusing on the applicability of standard methods for reviewing trials to systematic reviews that include non-randomized studies and partner in a recently awarded Canadian Collaborative for Methods, Applications, and Capacity Development in Network Meta-Analysis for Drug Safety and Effectiveness. Health services researcher and trialist, carrying out Health Technology Assessment primarily in hospital settings. He is one of the seven research area leaders of the NIHR Bristol Biomedical Research Unit in Cardiovascular Disease, and co-Director of the UKCRC-registered Bristol Clinical Trials and Evaluation Unit.

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Ian Roberts

Ian is Professor of Epidemiology at LSHTM. He trained as a paediatrician and then in epidemiology in New Zealand and at McGill University, Canada. He is co-ordinating editor of the Cochrane Injuries Group, a network that prepares systematic reviews of the effectiveness of interventions in the prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of injury. He is principal investigator of the CRASH trials, large international clinical trials of better ways to treat injured trauma patients.

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Georgia Salanti

Georgia is Associate Professor in Biostatistics and Epidemiology at the University of Ioannina Medical School, Greece. Georgia is a Co-Convenor of the Cochrane Statistical Methods Group and the Comparing Multiple Interventions Methods Group. Georgia's research interests are on statistical methods for meta-analysis, with focus on methodological issues in network meta-analysis

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Ian Shemilt

Ian is a Senior Research Associate in the Behaviour and Health Research Unit, the Department of Health funded policy research unit in behavior and health. He is also a member of the Methods Executive of Cochrane, a convenor of the Campbell and Cochrane Economics Methods Group and a member of the GRADE Working Group.

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Mark Simmonds

Mark is a medical statistician with a particular interest in statistical methodology for meta-analysis. His research interests include developing methods for individual participant data meta-analysis, for analyses of survival data and for the prediction of future health outcomes. This research has been applied in a range of medical areas including cancer trials, and predicting future incidence of cardiovascular disease, dementia, obesity and diabetes.

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Karla Soares-Weiser

Karla has recently been appointed Cochrane Deputy Editor-in-Chief with the role of supporting the Editor-in-Chief to deliver the objectives and targeted of the Cochrane Collaboration and support the CEO of Cochrane Innovations by leading the editorial development of new business products and services for Cochrane. As a result of this new challenging position, Karla stepped down from her role as managing director of Enhance Reviews Limited.

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Emma Sydenham

Emma is the Managing Editor of the Cochrane Injuries Group. She is the author of four Cochrane reviews and has an MSc in Epidemiology from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (2011). Prior to this Emma gained her first degree from Wellesley College, Boston USA and was awarded a Fulbright scholarship to study on the Health and Nursing Sciences course (Pfliegewissenschaft) at the University of Graz, Austria in 2004-5. Her interest in Cochrane and EBM evolved out of her experiences as a carer, including dealing with the health insurance systems, in both the US and UK.

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Yemisi Takwoingi

Yemisi is an NIHR Fellow and biostatistician in the Test Evaluation Research Group based in the School of Health and Population Sciences, University of Birmingham, UK. She has an interest in methods for systematic reviews of diagnostic test accuracy (DTA) studies; the design and conduct of primary studies of medical tests; and developing user-friendly programs to make statistical methods used in test evaluation accessible to non-statisticians. She also has an interest in methods for keeping systematic reviews up-to-date. She is co-convenor of the Cochrane Screening and Diagnostic Test Methods Group; Statistical Editor for the Bone, Joint and Muscle Trauma Group; an editor for the Infectious Diseases Group; and a member of the Editorial Team for Cochrane DTA reviews.

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James Thomas

James is the Director of the EPPI-Centre's Reviews Facility for the Department of Health, England, which undertakes systematic reviews across a range of policy areas to support the department. I specialise in developing methods for research synthesis, in particular for qualitative and mixed methods reviews and in using emerging information technologies such as text mining in research. I lead a module on synthesis and critical appraisal on the EPPI-Centre's MSc in Research for Public Policy and Practice and development on the Centre's in-house reviewing software, EPPI-Reviewer.

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