Cochrane Bias Methods Group
Annual Report 2018

Asbjørn Hróbjartsson
On behalf of the Co-Convenors

Centre for Evidense-Based Medicine Odense (CEBMO)
Odense University Hospital, Denmark
Co-convenors

• Isabelle Boutron, France
• Matt Page, Australia (David Moher stepped down 2017)
• Asbjørn Hróbjartsson, Denmark

• Doug Altman, UK (passed away June 3rd 2018)
“We need less research, better research and research done for the right reasons”

Doug Altman, 1994

“To maximise the benefit to society, you need to not just do research but do it well.

- Professor Doug Altman
  Medical research hero and statistics game-changer
Main activities

- Revised RoB tool 2.0 for RCT
- Chapter 8 in the Handbook rewritten
- David Moher Methods Symposium

- Tool to address funding and conflict of interest in trials included in a systematic review (TACIT)
- Tool to assess bias due to missing data in a meta-analysis (ROB-ME)
Structure

• Secretariat settled at Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine Odense (CEBMO)
  • Camilla Hansen BMG Research Coordinator

• Strategic Plan
  – Revised division of labour between convenors
  – Restructured communication routines
    • Newsletter every 6 months
    • Revised website
    • Editorials/commentaries
Newsletter

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With this newsletter, the Bias Methods Group wishes to provide some insight into the group’s activities, and to keep you abreast of the bias literature. We hope that you find our newsletter informative and enjoyable to read.

In loving memory of Doug Altman

It was with great sorrow that we received the sad news of the passing of our senior co-convenor Doug Altman on Sunday 3rd of June. Doug leaves behind an incredible legacy to medical research and statistics that will have ongoing influence for many years to come. Thank you Doug, for all you gave.

Read the full obituary written by The Bias Methods Group.
COMMENTARY

Assessing risk of bias in studies that evaluate health care interventions: recommendations in the misinformation age

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Plan for 2018-19

• Research plans
  – Tool for assessing conflict of interest (TACIT)
  – Tool for assessing risk of publication bias (ROB-ME)

• New convenor
  – Autumn 2018

• Bias research framework
  – Registry and protocol repository for bias and methods studies

• Ideas
  – Crowd research: engaging with the collaborative potential of >200 members of the BMG
  – The role of (semi)-automatization in risk of bias assessment
Bias and Methods Studies
Registry and Protocol Repository

• No forum for bias and methods researchers
  – to register planned studies
  – to make protocols publicly available

• BMG pilot project
  – Intended for BMG members and others interested in bias and methods research
  – Integrated part of new website
  – Simple set-up

• Reassess after 12 months
Questions, feedback, comments?
Colloquium Workshops and Meetings

• **Monday 17 September**
  
  - 11.00-12.30 Workshop: ‘Screen For Me’: harnessing the efficiencies of machine learning and Cochrane Crowd to identify randomised trials for Cochrane Reviews
  
  - 14:00-15:30 Oral session: Investigating bias
  
  - 14:00-15:30 Workshop: The ROB-ME (Risk Of Bias due to Missing Evidence) tool: a new tool for assessing reporting biases in evidence syntheses

• **Tuesday 18 September**
  
  - 11:00- 12:30 Oral session: Investigating bias
  
  - 14:00-15:30 Workshop: Using ROBINS-I to assess risk of bias in non-randomized studies of interventions