EBM Core Skills for Protocol Development

Synopsis

Evidence-Based Medicine teaches several core skills highly relevant to the development of a valid clinical research study protocol. Specifically, these core skills include appraising the literature for current evidence and identifying the knowledge gaps, determining the research aims and formulating the research question, choosing the appropriate study design, and developing a sensible analysis plan.

At the end of this seminar, participants should be able to:

- Recognize the four common clinical research aims;
- Formulate a focused question for each type of research aim;
- Know the appropriate study designs that could be used to answer the research question;
- Know how to systematically search for relevant studies;
- Understand how to appraise the relevance and validity of reported studies;
- Evaluate the reported results to assess the strength of evidence and knowledge gaps; and
- Understand the different ways of synthesizing evidence from several studies.

AGENDA

Time	Topic
8.45 – 9.00 am	**Registration**
9.00 – 10.00 am	**Four Common Research Aims & Formulating a Focused Research Question** • Therapeutic aim • Etiologic aim • Prognostic aim • Diagnostic aim
10.00 – 10.15 am	**Tea Break**
10.15 – 11.15 am	**Basic Research Processes for Study Design** • Sampling • Allocation • Intervention • Follow-up • Measurement
11.15– 12.00 pm	**Choosing an Appropriate Study Design for a Research Aim** • Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT) • Case-control study • Cohort study

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Time	Topic
12.00 – 12.45 pm	**Lunch**
12.45 – 1.30 pm	**Systematic Searching for Evidence** • Developing a search strategy • Implementation using the PubMed interface
1.30 – 230 pm	**Appraising Studies for Relevance and Validity** • Structured approach to appraisal • Appraising risk of bias • Using appraisal checklists
2.30 – 3.15 pm	**Appraising Reported Study Results** • Understanding what analysis is needed • Descriptive estimates • Comparative estimates of effect • Estimates of precision • Interpreting significance
3.15 – 3.30 pm	**Tea Break**
3.30 – 4.00 pm	**Developing a sensible data analysis plan**
4.00 – 4.30 pm	**Approaches to Evidence Synthesis** • Systematic reviews & meta-analysis • Qualitative synthesis • Quantitative synthesis • Assess the evidence and knowledge gaps

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Note: Information is accurate at time of print. Agenda is subject to changes without prior notice.

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